

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

Actor goes from hobbit to 'Lost' boy

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Dominic Monaghan



Last wild card slot goes to NL's Astros

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Houston's Raul Chavez, Jon and Brad Ausmus celebrate



Sasebo preemie gets a lot of community care

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Volume 63, No. 171 © EPSS 2004 J

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2004

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Major eruption 'imminent' at Mount St. Helens

Scientists detect tremor; hundreds cleared from area Page 6



Patriots' win streak hits 18, ties NFL record

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New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady (12) throws during the second half against the Buffalo Bills in Orchard Park, N.Y., on Sunday. The Patriots won, 31-17.

AP

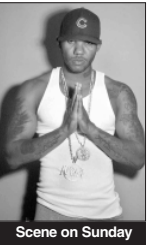
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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

World

Vatican beatifications: Pope John Paul II moved five Catholics closer to sainthood Sunday in Vatican City, including Austria's last reigning emperor Karl I and German nun Anna Katharina Emmerick, whose graphic visions of Christ's suffering helped inspire the blockbuster movie "The Passion of the Christ."

Beatification is the last formal step in the Catholic church before possible sainthood.

Bangladesh rally: More than 20,000 opposition supporters gathered for an anti-government rally Sunday amid tight security in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

About 1,200 police fanned out among the large crowd or stood guard around a downtown venue where the country's main opposition leader, Sheikh Hasina, was to give a speech, police official Nazmul Karim Khan said. Rally participants were randomly checked with metal detectors.

On Aug. 21, several grenades were thrown at a rally of Hasina's Awami League party, killing 21 people and wounding more than 300.

Afghanistan vote: A three-day drive to register Afghan refugees in Pakistan for historic presidential elections in their homeland has been extended for another day in a bid to get more people to sign up, organizers said Sunday.

The International Organization for Migration said it was giving refugees at camps and cities until Monday to register for the Oct. 9 poll so as many as possible could participate — amid signs that fewer than the expected 600,000 to 800,000 were signing up. Meanwhile, IOM reported arson at one registration center at a refugee camp in northeastern Pakistan. No one was hurt.

Bird flu recurrence: A 9-year-old girl in northern Thailand has tested positive for bird flu, becoming the latest case of the deadly virus since it resurfaced in Southeast Asia in July, a health ministry official said Sunday.

Kanda Srieng-On, who is in critical condition, is believed to have contracted the disease from infected birds, said Deputy Public Health Minister Anuthin Chanveerakul. Kanda was hospitalized in Phetchabun province on Sept. 30 with flu-like symptoms, and test results on Sunday showed she has the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu, Anuthin said.

Polio vaccinations in Africa: Nigeria's



Haiti unrest: Yvon Feuille, foreground, Roudy Heriveau, second row right, and Louis Gerald Gilles, back center, are escorted under arrest Saturday from a room in the Radio Caraibes building in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The three pro-Aristide politicians were arrested after barricading themselves in the Radio Caraibes building for six hours before surrendering to police, denying involvement in clashes involving Haitians demanding the return of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Fighting continued Sunday, with at least 14 people killed.

President kicked off a mammoth effort to immunize 80 million children against polio in 23 African countries, described by international health experts as "the single-largest public health campaign" in history to wipe out the disease.

President Olusegun Obasanjo led health workers in giving dozens of children oral vaccine drops in the mainly Muslim northern city of Kano, where until recently Islamic leaders had opposed immunization, inadvertently allowing the virus to spread in the region.

The campaign is being coordinated by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, which includes U.N. health agencies, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Rotary International.

States

Kerry's health: Sen. John Kerry's doctors have told him he is cured of the prostate cancer that sidelined him almost two years ago and that there is a slim chance it could recur

in the next decade, The New York Times said Sunday in a report based on interviews with the Democratic presidential nominee and several of his physicians.

"I am cured," the 60-year-old Kerry said in the interview last month. "I am cancer-free, and the percentages of me being cancer-free 10 years from now are about as good as they get."

He characterized the cancer as a nonissue in the campaign against President Bush.

NAACP election initiative: The widow of Martin Luther King Jr. said the right to vote should be open to everyone in a democracy, including those who have been convicted of crimes.

Ending the disenfranchisement of convicted felons is part of the unfinished business of the civil rights movement, Coretta Scott King said at an NAACP event marking the 40th anniversary of the Portland chapter in Maine.

During her keynote address Saturday night, King emphasized the need for political empowerment as a way to help minorities achieve gains in areas such as jobs and education.

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IN THE WORLD

Gaza campaign expands

BY IBRAHIM BARZAK

The Associated Press

JEBAJALIYA REFUGEE CAMP, Gaza Strip — Prime Minister Ariel Sharon vowed Sunday to expand Israel's deadliest offensive in Gaza in four years and to stay as long as needed to stop Palestinian rocket attacks.

An Israeli aircraft struck a group of Palestinian militants in Gaza City, killing two, just moments after they fired a rocket at Israel from the back of a donkey cart. Before dawn, tanks and bulldozers razed houses, factories and a kindergarten in the northern Gaza Strip.

And in the southern part, tanks and bulldozers opened a new front, briefly moving from a Jewish settlement into the Khan Yunis refugee camp, residents said.

So far, 55 Palestinians and three Israeli soldiers have been killed in the offensive launched by Israel after a Palestinian rocket attack on Wednesday killed two preschoolers in the town of Sderot. Israel poured 2,000 troops into northern Gaza — seizing an area five miles deep and wading into Jebajaliya, the biggest Palestinian refugee camp and one of the most crowded places in the world.

Sharon said he would keep troops in northern Gaza indefinitely to prevent Palestinian rocket fire and shelling. The Palestinian attacks have sharpened opposition to Sharon's plan to withdraw troops and settlers from the Gaza Strip.

It is necessary to bring about a complete end to the firing of rockets on Sderot and other towns that



Israeli soldiers unload an armored vehicle Sunday at a military staging area after returning from the Jebajaliya refugee camp on the northern border of the Gaza Strip. Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon warned that his army's largest operation in Gaza in four years would expand as much as necessary to stop Palestinian rocket attacks.

border the Gaza Strip. The current situation cannot continue," Sharon told Israeli Radio.

"We have to expand ... the areas of operation in order to get the rocket launchers out of the range of Israeli towns," he added.

Currently, the homemade, low-explosive Qassam rockets used by Palestinian militants have a range of about five miles. On Saturday, Hamas militants said they were expanding the Qassam's range and threatened to strike the city of Ashkelon, nine miles from the Gaza border.

Sharon told Israel's Army Radio the operation "is not a short thing. The forces will have to remain there as long as this danger exists."

"We must also operate to stop the shelling of Israeli communities in Gaza now and during the evacuation," he said.

Israeli officials said the military had no intention of setting up a long-term presence in northern Gaza. "The length of the operation will be determined by its results," senior Defense Ministry official Amos Gilad told Army Radio.

Suspected rebels bomb India utilities, marketplace; at least people 50 dead

BY WASBIR HUSSAIN

The Associated Press

GAUHATI, India — Suspected separatists bombed a power line, a gas pipeline, a tea plantation and a crowded marketplace in northeastern India on Sunday, intensifying a campaign of violence that has killed more than 50 people and wounded at least 100 during the last two days.

The violence, affecting the states of Nagaland and Assam, was among the deadliest to hit the region, where more than three dozen insurgent groups have been active. They include one of Asia's longest-running separatist conflicts, dating to shortly before India gained independence from Britain in 1947.

As troops patrolled streets in Nagaland Sunday, a bomb exploded in Dhekigadga, a village about 100 miles north of Gauhati, the Assam state capital. Police said 15 people were wounded.

Also Sunday, suspected rebels targeted a gas pipeline with a

land mine blast near the village of Borhat in western Assam, 125 miles west of Gauhati, police said. The extent of the damage was unknown.

Also in Borhat, a tea garden worker was killed and two others seriously injured when suspected guerrillas detonated a bomb at their plantation. Press Trust of India news agency said.

Two suspected rebels of the outlawed National Democratic Front of Bodoland were killed when explosives they were carrying detonated in Assam's Sontipur district, PTI said.

Another bomb exploded at a shop in Dabosal in western Assam, wounding its owner, said A.K. Bhutani, the district magistrate. And in the nearby town of Chitra, suspected militants blew up an electrical transmission tower, cutting the power supply to the area, Bhutani said.

Federal Home Minister Shivraj Patil visited Assam and Nagaland on Sunday to assess the violence, which began Saturday when sus-

pected separatists detonated a bomb at a packed railway station and sprayed gunfire into bustling markets.

Nagaland's death toll stood at 28 on Sunday, while Assam's rose to 25. No group claimed responsibility and it wasn't clear whether the nine attacks in Nagaland and Assam states were linked.

But Inspector-General Khagen Sarma, the top police official of Assam state, said he "cannot rule out" the possible involvement of the outlawed National Democratic Front of Bodoland, a tribal separatist group that is active in the region.

Sunday is the 18th anniversary of the group, which is demanding a homeland for Bodoland, a region that straddles both states.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan strongly condemned the terrorist attacks and expressed his condolences to the victims and their families.

"No cause or motive can justify such senseless and cruel acts that target innocent civilians," Annan said in a statement.

S. Korea rebuked for nuclear testing

BY SOO-JEONG LEE

The Associated Press

SEOUL — South Korea must not conduct any more nuclear experiments without notifying the United Nations because any secret nuclear activity, however small, is a matter of "serious concern," the U.N. nuclear chief said Sunday.

The comments in Seoul by Mohamed ElBaradei, director of the International Atomic Energy Agency, came after North Korea warned that the South Korean experiments had disrupted a dialogue between the two Koreas.

"It will be impossible to expect any development of inter-Korean relations unless the truth about South Korea's secret nuclear experiments is probed," the North Korean news agency KCNA said Saturday, citing an unidentified Pyongyang official.

The two Koreas have conducted a fitful reconciliation process since a 2000 summit between their leaders. Family reunions, Cabli-

net-level talks and economic and cultural exchanges have been held, but their militaries remain on alert along the border.

The controversy over South Korea's experiments has also threatened to further disrupt troubled efforts to persuade North Korea to dismantle its suspected nuclear weapons programs.

ElBaradei was in South Korea to take part in the Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs. But he also planned to meet with several top officials during his trip.

His visit follows Seoul's recent admissions that it conducted a plutonium-based nuclear experiment more than 20 years ago and a uranium-enrichment experiment in 2000. South Korea says the experiments were purely research but has acknowledged it should have informed the IAEA.

"Any undeclared activities is a matter of serious concern for me," ElBaradei said. "However, as far as I know now, these have been small experiments."

German reunification day marred by reform talk

ERFURT, Germany — German leaders celebrated the 14th anniversary of national reunification Sunday, with calls for Germans to accept painful social welfare cuts amid fears that the former communist east may never catch up with the more prosperous west.

The west has provided billions to rebuild infrastructure and prop up living standards since reunification on Oct. 3, 1990, a year after the fall of the Berlin Wall. But a summer of protests — mainly in the east — against a state of unprecedented unemployment benefit cuts has renewed debate about the inequities between the nation's regions.

With the economy mired in stagnation, many east Germans are bitter that promises of prosperity have failed to materialize.

President Horst Koehler tried to take the focus off that debate in a ceremony in the eastern city of Erfurt, but warned that Germans would have to learn to live with welfare reforms.

"We cannot accept unemployment anywhere, no matter if it is the north, south, west or east," he said.

But "when can we bid farewell to the fallacy that we can keep pushing problems into the future through ever higher national debt? ... I am convinced that we can and will conquer this mountain" of challenges.

Protesters jeered Koehler in the east German city of Rostock last week, angry at comments he made in a magazine interview in mid-September in which he suggested that standards of living in the east cannot realistically be brought up to those of the west.

From The Associated Press

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Rice stands by assessment of Saddam's nukes

By JENNIFER C. KERR

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — National security adviser Condoleezza Rice on Sunday defended her characterization of Saddam Hussein's nuclear capabilities in the months before the Iraq invasion, even as a published report said government experts had cast doubt at the time.

In the run-up to the March 2003 war, Rice said in a television interview in 2002 that the Iraqi president was trying to obtain high-purity aluminum tubes to rebuild his nuclear weapons program. The tubes, she said, were "really only suited for nuclear weapons programs."

On Sunday, Rice acknowledged she was aware of a debate among U.S. intelligence agencies about whether those tubes were intended for nuclear weapons. The State Department, she said, had raised concerns, but she said there was other evidence that could not be ignored.

"The intelligence community assessment as a whole as that these (tubes) were likely and certainly suitable for, and likely for, his nuclear weapons program," Rice told ABC's "This Week."

She said the director of the CIA at the time, George Tenet, believed that the tubes were for centrifuge parts.

"When you are faced with an assessment that Saddam Hussein is reconstituting his nuclear weapons program, that he has by the end of the decade the probability of having a nuclear weapons... the tendency is always not to want to underestimate these programs," Rice said.

But two years later, Rice insisted she has no regrets about how the administration portrayed what it believed was a dangerous threat posed by Saddam.

"I stand by to this day the correctness of the decision to take seriously an intelligence assessment that Saddam Hussein would likely have a nuclear weapon" if action wasn't taken.

"We were all unhappy that the intelligence was not as good as we had thought that it was. But the essential judgment was absolutely right. Saddam Hussein was a threat," she said.

A New York Times story Sunday quoted four CIA officials and a senior administration official as saying that Rice and her staff had been told in 2001 that Energy Department experts believed the tubes were probably intended for small artillery rockets — and not nuclear weapons.

Rice said she learned of objections by the Energy Department only after making her 2002 comments.

U.S., Iraqi forces claim victory in Samarra offensive

By ZIDAN KHALAF

The Associated Press

SAMARRA, Iraq — U.S. and Iraqi forces scoured Samarra for holdouts on Sunday after two days of fierce fighting to reclaim control of the city from Sunni militants. Overnight, U.S. warplanes

hammered Fallujah, another rebel-held city, killing at least four people, hospital officials said.

U.S. and Iraqi commanders have declared the operation in Samarra, 60 miles northwest of Baghdad, a successful first step in a major push to wrest key parts

of the country from insurgents before January elections.

Iraqi police patrolled the city Sunday, while American soldiers and Iraqi National Guard members went house to house searching for insurgents and weapons caches.

As the gunfire subsided, residents emerged from their homes to survey the damage and bury the dead.

The military said 125 rebels have been killed and 88 captured since the operation started early Friday.

"This is great news for the people of Samarra, 200,000 people who have been captured, hostage if you will, by just a couple of hundred thugs," Maj. Gen. John Batiste, commander of the U.S. 1st Infantry Division, told CNN on Saturday.

Many residents agreed. "Since several months, the city has been living in a state of lawlessness," said Abbas Mahmoud, 30. "I hope that after this operation, law and order will be restored."

But there was also mounting anger at the number of civilians killed, including women and children.

According to Abdul-Nasser Hamed Yassin, an official at Samarra General Hospital, 70 bodies have been brought to the hospital morgue. A total of 160 wounded also arrived at the hospital. It was not known if any of the dead were rebel fighters.

Yassin said that of the 70 dead, 23 were children and 18 women. There were 23 women among the 160 wounded, Yassin said.

"The people who were hurt



A burning U.S. military vehicle is pulled back to a base after a roadside bomb explosion Saturday in Baghdad. No casualty reports were available.

most are normal people who have nothing to do with anything," said Abdul Latif Hadi, 45.

At the main hospital, bodies in black plastic bags were loaded on a truck to be taken to the cemetery Sunday.

A few grocery stores were open, but most businesses remained shuttered. Residents moved around on foot, saying the military had instructed them not to use cars.

There was no electricity in the city, but water service had resumed, residents said.

The strikes in Fallujah, 40 miles west of Baghdad, were the latest in weeks of attacks aimed

at groups with links to terrorists, particularly the network of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. Followers of the Jordanian militant have claimed responsibility for a string of deadly bombings, kidnappings and other attacks across the country.

South of Baghdad, two bodies, one with a severed head, were found early Sunday, with police saying the corpses looked like those of Westerners.

But Police Lt. Hussein Rizuqi said no identification was found on the corpses which were discovered in the area of Yousfiyah, 12 miles south of Baghdad.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, 1,055 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to the Defense Department.

Of those, 801 died as a result of hostile action and 254 died of non-hostile causes. The figures include three military civilians.

The British military has reported 67 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, eight; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; the Netherlands, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that

major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 917 U.S. military members have died, 692 as a result of hostile action and 225 of non-hostile causes, according to the military's numbers as of Friday. There was no update provided on Saturday.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ One U.S. soldier was killed Friday by small arms fire.

The latest identification reported by the Department of Defense:

■ Army Staff Sgt. Darren J. Cunningham, 40, Groton, Mass., died Thursday in Baghdad, Iraq, when his unit came under mortar attack; assigned to the 89th Military Police Brigade, Fort Hood, Texas.

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Evening Service	1800	
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Faith Bible Institute	1830	◆ Revival Services 27 Oct-1 Nov
Tuesday		
Soul Winning & Visitation	1830	
Wednesday		
Evening Service & Prayer Mtg	1900	
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IN THE STATES

Major eruption at Mount St. Helens 'imminent'

BY DAVID AMMONS
The Associated Press

MOUNT ST. HELENS NATIONAL MONUMENT, Wash. — Scientists detected a volcanic tremor at Mount St. Helens early Sunday, just hours after officials

raised the volcano's alert level, cleared hundreds of visitors from the area and warned a major eruption was imminent.

Sunday's tremor lasted about 25 minutes and was milder than the 50-minute tremor that followed a steam release Saturday, said Jeff Wynn, chief scientist for volcano hazards at the U.S. Geological Survey's Cascade Volcano Observatory.

"It just means that what's been happening is still happening" and the volcano is moving toward an additional eruption, Wynn said.

Scientists expect the impending blast to be much smaller than the May 18, 1980, eruption that killed 57 people and coated much of the Northwest with ash. But the tremors and steam detected since quake activity began Sept. 23 signaled more seismic energy than at any point since the 1980 explosion.

The volcano alert was raised to Level 3, which "indicates we feel an eruption is imminent, or is in progress," said U.S. Geological Survey geologist Tom Pierson. He said Saturday afternoon that an explosion probably would happen within the next 24 hours.



Cars make their way down from the Johnston Ridge Observatory on Saturday past the main parking area at Mount St. Helens, Wash., on Spirit Lake Memorial Highway after the U.S. Forest Service closed the center just after noon because of seismic activity on the mountain. Soon afterward, the media was told to move several miles away.

Hundreds of visitors at the building closest to the volcano — Johnston Ridge Observatory five miles away — were asked to leave Saturday. Some relocated several miles north to Coldwater Ridge Visitors Center, which officials said was safe.

People pitched tents alongside

park roads and spent the night waiting to see what the rumbling volcano would do. Saturday was the busiest day ever at visitors' centers on the mountain, with thousands of people packing buildings, crowding parking lots and sitting alongside roads in lawn chairs.

Barbara Jardin, 53, of Camas, said she saw the plume at midday and was afraid she'd miss something if she left the area. "I just stare at it and stare at it. It's too awesome to leave," she said.

Interior Secretary Gale Norton, who flew over the mountain Saturday, said the seismic activity has weakened the 1,000-foot lava dome that began forming in the volcano's crater after the 1980 eruption.

"The greatest concern at this point is an ash plume and the spread of ash itself that might come from an explosion," Norton said. "This is a concern for aircraft travel."

Saturday's tremor lasted about an hour before it was drowned out by a series of earthquakes — one or two a minute, with a maximum magnitude of "well over 2," said Tom Yelin, a USGS seismologist at the University of Washington's seismic laboratory in Seattle.

The growing consensus among scientists is that new magma is probably entering the volcano's upper levels, bringing with it volatile gases that could lead to eruptions, said Bill Steele at the University of Washington lab.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Japanese yen (Oct. 4)	106.00
South Korean won (Oct. 2)	1,118.00
Euro (Oct. 4)	\$1,277
British pound (Oct. 4)	\$1.45
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.377
British pound	\$1,788
Canada (Dollar)	1.263
Denmark (Krone)	6.892
Egypt (Pound)	4.201
Euro	\$1,240
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.269
Hungary (Forint)	197.8
Iceland (Krona)	70.25
Israel (Shekel)	1.836
Japan (Yen)	110.40
Kuwait (Dinar)	4.246
Norway (Krone)	6.749
Philippines (Peso)	56.28
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.75
Singapore (Dollar)	1.687
South Korea (Won)	1,417.00
Switzerland (Franc)	1.25
Taiwan (Dollar)	41.37
Turkey (Lira)	1,692,537.00
Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of use for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. For non-local currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Military rates are for bank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	

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INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.75
Discount rate	2.75
Federal funds market rate	1.9375
2-month bill	1.59
30-year bond	4.95
Source: The Associated Press, Bank of America, Bloomberg.com	

IMF, World Bank weigh terror war, poverty issues

BY HARRY DUNPHY
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Governments must actively oppose terror but not let that fight reduce efforts to strengthen the global economic recovery and reduce poverty in the world's poorest countries, international finance officials said Sunday.

Referring to wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and Africa and violence in other parts of the world, World Bank President James Wolfen-

sohn said governments have become preoccupied with security.

"It is absolutely right that we fight terror. We must," he said. "The danger, however, is that in our preoccupation with immediate threats, we lose sight of the longer term and equally urgent causes of our insecure world: frustration and lack of hope."

He said eradication of poverty was essential to global stability and peace.

Wolfensohn and Rodrigo Rato, head of the International Monetary Fund, spoke on the

final day of the annual meetings of the two Washington-based lending institutions, opened by its 184 member governments.

Rato said the governments still had much to do to boost the global economic recovery, including carefully monitoring effects of higher oil prices on their economies.

About a dozen protesters set up a tent in a small, heavily barricaded park across the street from the World Bank and IMF headquarters, which are a few blocks from the White House.

Reasons and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

Vote by absentee ballot

CBS MarketWatch

NEW YORK — Just because you won't be near a polling place on Election Day is no reason to throw away one of your greatest assets — your vote.

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Rules for applying for an absentee ballot vary by state.

You can register for an absentee ballot online if you are:

■ An American citizen currently residing outside the United States.

■ A member of the armed forces currently stationed in Europe or the Pacific.

■ To request an absentee ballot online, visit Declare Yourself at www.declareyourself.com. The Web site guides users through the steps of requesting an absentee ballot from their home state.

If you need assistance completing your absentee ballot, check your state's guidelines before mailing in the ballot. Some states require the witness' signature or other confirmation of the assistance rendered.

Be sure to mail back your absentee ballot with no later than Oct. 11, Defense Department officials say.

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Poll: Debate closed gap between Kerry, Bush

BY RONALD BROWNSTEIN
AND
KATHLEEN HENNESSEY

Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — John F. Kerry improved his image with voters who watched his debate with President Bush last week but did not significantly shift their choice in the presidential race, a Los Angeles Times Poll of debate viewers has found.

While the debate generally did not diminish impressions of Bush on most questions, it did restore some of the luster Kerry had lost amid relentless Republican pounding since his party's convention in July, the poll found.

The key political question will

be whether those gains in Kerry's image will help him peel away voters from Bush in the days ahead.

More than three times as many of the people who watched Thursday's debate chose Kerry rather than Bush as the winner, the poll found. Kerry also made gains with viewers on questions relating to national security and strength of leadership.

And the percentage of debate viewers with a favorable perception of Kerry increased from 52 percent before to 57 percent after.

Kerry's most dramatic advance in the survey came in convincing more voters that he has a thorough agenda for the next four years. Asked which candidate had the more detailed plan for the poli-

cies he would pursue if elected, those who watched the debate gave Bush a nine-percentage point edge before the encounter; afterward, they preferred Kerry by four percentage points.

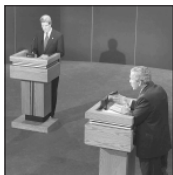
"I thought (Kerry) did remarkably well within that format," said Joanne Sullivan, a registered Republican from Bremen, Maine. "He was very specific and went from Point A to Point B so much better than the platitudes that emerged from George Bush's side."

The poll, conducted Thursday night and Friday, surveyed 1,368 registered voters who participated in a Times survey last week and agreed to be contacted after the Sept. 30 debate. Among the

group, 725 voters said they had, in fact, watched the debate; it is their attitudes the poll reports.

In last week's Times Poll, Kerry trailed Bush among all registered voters by 49 percent to 45 percent. But the voters who watched the matchup preferred Kerry by 48 percent to 47 percent for Bush before the debate. After the debate, viewers divided almost exactly the same way, with 49 percent favoring Kerry, 47 percent Bush.

That tracks with other post-debate polls showing improvements in Kerry's image but generally little immediate change in the race. The exception is a Newsweek poll conducted Thursday night through Saturday in which Kerry led Bush, 49 percent to 46 percent among registered voters.



Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry, left, listens as President Bush answers a question during the presidential debate in Florida on Thursday.



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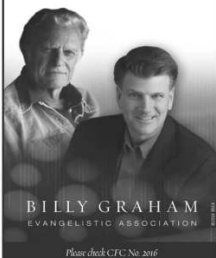


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FACES

Cosby pledges concert proceeds

Comedian and actor **Bill Cosby** has pledged at least \$1 million for a planned U.S. National Slavery Museum.

Cosby announced he would donate proceeds from 10 concerts to the museum effort, or between \$1 million and \$1.5 million, museum officials estimate. Cosby sits on the museum's board.

"We need history," Cosby told an audience in Fredericksburg, Va., where the museum is planned to open in 2007.

"We need proof for our children ... to see the strength of their ancestors," Cosby said.

The museum plans fund-raising activities in conjunction with each concert and hopes to raise \$20 million, said Ed Wegel, chairman of the museum's capital campaign committee.

Former Gov. L. Douglas Wilder, the nation's first black elected governor, has estimated the museum project will cost \$200 million. Construction is scheduled to begin later this year.



Cosby

Billy Joel, girlfriend get hitched

Singer-songwriter **Billy Joel** married his fiancée, **Kate Lee**, in a ceremony Saturday at his Long Island mansion, his record label said.

Joel, 55, wed Lee, 23, in a sunset wedding at his waterfront home, *Newsday* reported in its online editions.

Columbia Records, Joel's label, announced the marriage Saturday night. A spokeswoman for Joel could not immediately be reached for comment.

Joel, who was previously married twice, including to supermodel **Christie Brinkley**, has had more than two dozen Top 10 hits.

Lee, a native of Huntington, W.Va., recently graduated from Ohio's Miami University and works as a restaurant correspondent for the PBS show "George Hirsch: Living It Up." She and Joel began dating last year, according to *Newsday*.

Jim Carrey's new DVD 'supports love'

Jim Carrey says his most recent movie is a good prescription for squabbling lovers.

Carrey plays a man who has the painful memories of his girlfriend erased from his mind in "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind."

At a Los Angeles party for the film's DVD release, he offered this promise about the hard-core love story: "I guarantee you, couples who see this movie — and it's not goooey, it's not romanticized in anyway — but couples who see this movie will love each other after," he said. "You'll go, 'Awww, what the hell ... you're not so bad!' It supports love."

Joining Carrey at the party was co-star **Kate Winslet**, who plays the multi-colored-hair love interest Clementine.



Carrey

The DVD is set for release Tuesday.

'Cheers' star joins 'Law & Order' spinoff

Bebe Neuwirth, who played Lilith the psychiatrist on sitcoms "Cheers" and "Frasier," is getting serious with a role as the latest member of the "Law & Order" franchise.

Neuwirth will play a tough Manhattan prosecutor in "Law & Order: Trial by Jury," coming to NBC next year. She joins actor **Jerry Orbach**, who is moving over from the original "Law & Order" series.

Neuwirth received two Emmy Awards for her portrayal of Frasier Crane's wife (and later ex-wife) on the NBC sitcoms.

An air date for the new "Law & Order" has not been announced.

Victoria's Secret Angels kick off tour

The Victoria's Secret Angels hit the road for the lingerie retailer's first nationwide tour: Angels Across America.

Tyra Banks, **Gisele Bündchen**, **Heidi Klum**, **Adriana Lima** and **Alessandra Ambrosio** will present the 2004 holiday gift collection in New York, Chicago, Las Vegas and Los Angeles.

In Las Vegas, the Angels will be inducted into the Hard Rock Hall of Fame.

A one-hour special documenting the tour will air Dec. 13 on VH1 in the States.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

LOST

But Not Forgotten

Dominic Monaghan stars in new series on ABC

BY TERRY MORROW

Scripts Howard News Service

When **Dominic Monaghan** came zooming back from Middle Earth, he hit with a resounding thud.

"My first year in Los Angeles was pretty hellish," says the British actor who played Merry in "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy.

"I came over here after the high point of 'Lord of the Rings,' and I saw all my friends jumping around to jobs, and I had nothing."

He's found work now. The 28-year-old is co-starring in the ABC Wednesday night series "Lost," the latest action ride from J.J. Abrams ("Alias").

The expansive cast also includes **Matthew Fox** ("Party of Five") and **Ian Somerhalder** ("Rules of Attraction").

Monaghan plays **Charlie**, an ex-rock star with a jones for heroin.

Unfortunately for **Charlie**, he's stuck on a remote island after a plane crash and has no hope of being rescued anytime soon.

The island's jungle has its own dangers. Mysterious creatures with a taste for the survivors are lurking and ready to pounce.

To say **Charlie** has seen better days is an understatement. Monaghan can relate to that piece of the character when his career was basically on hold for a year.

"My manager at the time was not doing anything for me, and I kind of got into a little bit of a funk. I was living in a (dubious) house in a (bad) part of town. I didn't have a car, and living in L.A. without a car, well, is difficult," Monaghan says.

The journey from Merry to **Charlie** was an unusual one for Monaghan.

He never expected to find himself "Lost."

"It's hard to imagine that this was happening to someone who was in one of the biggest movies of the year be-

fore," he recalls. "But I would not give up that time for anything in the world."

"I remember writing in my journal that I was going through this growing experience because of it. I came back down to Earth with a bump."

After Monaghan got new management, he started finding work. He says he was on the lookout for more movie roles when the script for "Lost" came his way. The role of the tortured **Charlie** intrigued him.

"The frustration of **Charlie's** situation means he has a lot going on in his head," Monaghan says. "He lives in his head quite a lot."

He's a drug addict, and drug addicts, by nature, are a selfish lot, he says. "It's a little like life imitating art. I'm not there now, but I can remember what it was like being a little bit out there on a limb."

Born in Germany and raised in Manchester, England, Monaghan gained fame through "Rings."

"Lost," his first major American series, is shot in Hawaii, forcing him to uproot again. But this time, the bachelor says, the move is to paradise.

"I've always had itching feet," he says. "I like being on the move every couple of years."

In reflection, Monaghan says he learned from the past year. "The whole experience (of unemployment) kind of got me back to who I am. I needed that," he says. "Two years of working solid (on 'Rings') put me at a point where I was a little bit exhausted. I needed to chill out and take it easy for a while."

Charged up about his new series, Monaghan says that playing **Charlie** could turn out to be the professional challenge he needed.

"For lack of a better word," he says, "Charlie is lost, and I can understand that almost too well. The (woes) you carry around with you as an actor always helps you flesh out a character."

"For lack of a better word, Charlie is lost, and I can understand that almost too well. The (woes) you carry around with you as an actor always helps you flesh out a character."

Dominic Monaghan

Actor



MARIO PEREZ/ABC/AP

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Stars and Stripes (USPS 417-0150) is published daily (except
on Sundays and New Year's) for 50 cents daily and \$1 Sunday by the
Stars and Stripes Central office, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Wash-
ington DC 20045-1301. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, Calif.
Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes,
Unit 45002, APO 96337-5002.

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More UCMJ info needed

I have some concerns about the article "DOD pushes for penalties for soliciting a prostitute" (Sept. 24, Okinawa edition; Sept. 23 Japan and Korea editions) after reading it. First, the Uniform Code of Military Justice already has an Article 134. It's the last article in the UCMJ, and it is known as "The General Article."

Second, the penalty portion is interesting. The UCMJ articles normally state punishment shall be "as a court-martial may direct," except in certain cases, such as treason, desertion under fire, etc., which are punishable by death.

Also, it takes a general court-martial to award a dishonorable discharge, and I'm pretty sure it takes a special court-martial to award a general court-martial. I can't really see the military going to that much trouble just to punish some horny sailor who went out and got a little on the beach, even if he did pay for it.

There is also the problem of actually proving that one paid for sex. All he has to do is say he picked her up in a bar, and she will probably back him up.

I think someone should do a little more research on this. Some things smelt rotten here.

Bob Malcolm
Kingsland, Ga.

Human trafficking is in U.S.

I would like to applaud to Department of Defense for finally taking a stand against

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the illegal human trade that is overlooked or ignored. This is clearly something a U.S. servicemember should not be involved in.

By making it unlawful for a U.S. servicemember to purchase sexual favors and/or contribute to the illegal human trade, it sends a clear message to the people who participate in human trafficking: U.S. servicemembers will take no part in exploiting human beings. This will set as an example for many countries to follow.

Is a law going to stop all U.S. servicemembers from visiting the red-light districts? Will prohibiting U.S. servicemembers from paying for sex get rid of human trafficking? Any person with a reasonable state of mind would answer no to these questions. The question then becomes, do U.S. servicemembers need to support these illegal activities?

One might argue that being a prostitute is the choice of the person who sells his/her body. This might be true in some cases but, for those who feel that way, please consider the following:

■ 269,000 human beings were smuggled into the States for sexual purposes in 2000. "International sex trafficking is the new slavery," said Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan.

■ 28 baby girls younger than 3 months — all intended for global trafficking — were discovered packed into nylon suitcases on a bus in southern China in March 2003;

■ 10 percent of U.S. missing children are sold internationally for as much as \$300,000 each.

Our president said: "There is a special evil in the abuse and exploitation of the most innocent and vulnerable. The trade in human beings for any purpose must not be allowed to thrive in our time" (Sept. 23, 2003, U.N. General Assembly address).

For those U.S. servicemembers who feel that the human trafficking problem is only limited to Third World countries, you should think again.

Charles R. Wallace
Kaiserslautern, Germany

Boys of summer return to nation's capital

By DALE MCFEATERS

SPRINGS HOWARD News Service

There was a disturbance in the fabric of the universe, but it's fixed now.

Baseball is coming back to the nation's capital after an unconscionable 33-year absence.

After years of dithering, Major League Baseball bowed to the inevitable and agreed to move the nomadic Montreal Expos to Washington.

It is sad for the handful of Montreal fans who loyally followed their team to the end, but older Washington residents know how they feel.

Washington lost two teams, the beloved if hapless Senators of "Dann Yankees" fame in 1960 and the equally hapless expansion team that moved in 1971.

Returning baseball to the capital was — or should have been — no a-brainer.

It is the nation's eighth largest TV market, and one of the richest, and the only one of the top 18 without a baseball team.

The return might be as important to baseball as it was to Washington.

For a sport that claims to be the national

pastime not to play in the national capital was unfortunate symbolism.

And, in the 33 years baseball has been away, baseball has become a sadly diminished local pastime.

The spring sports of the capital's youth are soccer, increasingly lacrosse and everywhere nonstop basketball games.

Maybe the focus of having a big league baseball team will reverse that in an area that was once such rich baseball ground that a local high school is named after the late Senators pitcher of Fame pitcher Walter "Big Train" Johnson.

The team will play in venerable RFK, the same stadium the Senators vacated in 1971 and now one of the last cookie-cutter, dual-use stadiums.

After a \$13 million renovation, it will be ready, city officials assure, for Opening Day, April 4, 2005.

Surely the president, whoever he is, will

throw out the first pitch.

After three years, the team will move into a new \$400 million ball park, just south of the U.S. Capitol on Washington's other river, the Anacostia.

Hurting productivity in the corridors of power is coffee break discussion of what the new team will be named.

The "Senators" name may have fatal bad karma, and the D.C. stadium crowd is piously insisting the team can't be called the Senators because the District doesn't have senators.

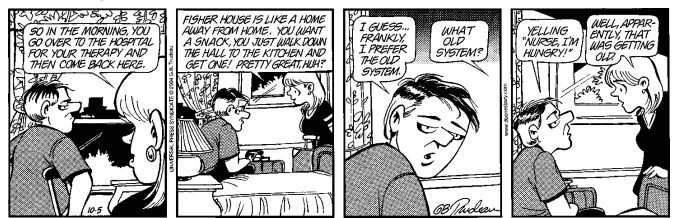
The list of suggestions is certainly infinite — Windbags, Filibusters, Gridlocks, Drones, Bureaucrats, Beltway Bandits.

Unlike the old Senators, the new team will be in the American League, meaning that the old rallying cry of Washington baseball will have to be updated to: "First in war, first in peace, last in the National League."

Final baseball news: back where it should always have been.

The team will play in
venerable RFK,
the same stadium the
Senators vacated in
1971 and now one of
the last cookie-cutter,
dual-use stadiums.

Doonesbury



BY GARRY TRUDEAU

OPINION

Candidates prefer their own environments

The Washington Post

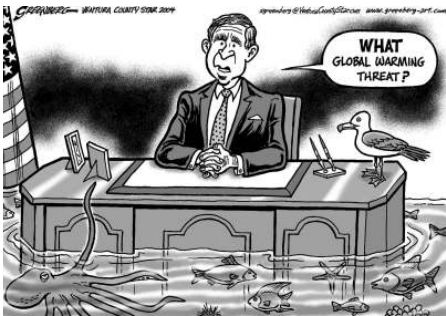
Although politicians tend to talk about "the environment" as if it were a single, easily defined topic, environmental issues range quite widely, from climate change to nuclear waste disposal to forest management. Nevertheless, it is possible to speak of environmental philosophies, and the two presidential candidates have, over long careers, shown that they are very different.

Certainly there is no doubt about President Bush's belief in the need to reduce environmental regulation to ease the constraints on industries most affected by it. Although the administration has made few dramatic changes, it has rewritten an extraordinary number of rules, for example, to allow older utilities to upgrade their facilities without adding pollution-control equipment; to prevent the Environmental Protection Agency from regulating carbon dioxide emissions, the most important source of "greenhouse gases"; to loosen the regulation of mercury emissions; to limit the amount of land that can be formally declared "wilderness"; to make logging easier in old-growth forests. The president himself, a flip-flopper, as his campaign would put it, on the question of the urgency of climate change, first expressing interest in the issue, then walking away from it, then delaying discussion by proposing "further studies."

The White House argues that its measures are merely corrective, an attempt to reverse extreme actions taken in the past. On clean-air issues, for example, officials say their goal is to create more reliable, predictable controls using market incentives, and to limit unpredictable lawsuits. But their enthusiasm both for markets and for simplification — which we share — has not been matched by an equivalent enthusiasm for making sure the air continues to get cleaner. That is why it has been so hard to take seriously their rhetoric about "clear skies."

By contrast, the record of Sen. John Kerry reflects a long and deep commitment to environmental regulation, although not necessarily a rigid or dogmatic one. In debating environmental votes with his staff and outsiders he does talk about the need to balance environmental and economic concerns. Still, his voting record is one of the most pro-environmentalist in the Senate. He has voted repeatedly for measures that would enforce strict observance of the Clean Air and Clean Water acts as well as wilderness protection. He has more than once helped defeat bills that would allow oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Kerry's environmental positions cannot be described as unusually creative. He has generally backed the regulatory consensus,



which even supporters agree could usefully be updated. Yet that consensus has, over several decades, produced cleaner air and water, and preserved more wilderness. Simply rolling it back without replacing it would achieve nothing except a reversal of those gains. Far preferable

would be a president interested in modernizing environmental rules without abandoning their ultimate goal: a better environment.

This is one in a series of editorials comparing the records and programs of the presidential candidates on important issues. Others can be found at: www.washingtonpost.com/opinion.

There's strength in numbers, but is there fairness?

BY MICHAEL O'HANLON

Does the United States need a bigger military? The charged debate over this question, with much of Congress, including Sen. John Kerry, on one side and the Bush administration on the other, has raged since the summer of 2003, when it became apparent that the U.S. military was destined for a significant stay in Iraq.

Over the past year, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has compromised somewhat, adding about 25,000 soldiers to the active-duty Army. That makes for roughly a 5 percent increase (Kerry would add 40,000 more troops). But the Bush administration has resisted writing even its small increase into law — preferring to fund it with emergency war appropriations and to carry it out with "stop-loss" orders that prevent many soldiers from leaving the Army even when their tours of duty end.

Who is right, and where should we go from here? Any assessment must begin with several key facts:

■ No crisis in Army or Marine Corps recruiting and retention has developed, at least not yet. American military personnel are displaying remarkable perseverance, patriotism and commitment, and are signing up for service in generally adequate numbers.

■ That said, the Army National Guard was down about 5,000 soldiers short of its 2004 recruiting goals, mostly because it failed miserably to attract former active-duty soldiers into its ranks in the usual numbers. With an average of 150,000 Army National Guard and Reserve personnel activated at any given time since Sept. 11, 2001, and \$5,000 in Iraq today, joining the Guard is no longer a good way to stay involved in the military while also being able to stay home.

■ U.S. forces in Iraq still number about 140,000. That is almost equal to their peak number there in the spring of 2003. It is 25,000 more than last winter and at least three times the number Pentagon planners expected for this phase of the operation. The

Army, which is providing about 80 percent of the total, is making plans to keep its deployed strength near that level for several more years if necessary.

■ All of the Army's active-duty combat brigades were deployed overseas to a combat zone in 2003 or 2004, some of them twice. All will have to go back again. In fact, the average unit could have to deploy to Iraq or Afghanistan two more times in the next presidential term if the Army's current planning assumptions prove correct.

■ Already, the 3rd Infantry Division, which constituted most of the left prong of last year's invasion force, has received orders to return to Iraq this winter. The 1st Marine Division, which provided most of the right prong, is, of course, already back in Iraq — soon to be relieved by the 2nd Marine Division, which in recent years has sent units to Afghanistan and Haiti.

■ The soldiers of the 2nd Brigade of the 2nd Infantry Division, who spent most of the past year in South Korea, are now to spend another year away from their families, in Iraq.

Taking all this together suggests that there is a crisis in today's ground forces —

but a crisis of fairness rather than numbers. We are, so far, able to sustain our deployments in Afghanistan and Iraq — but only by badly overworking our current contingents of soldiers and Marines. And ideas being considered to address this problem, such as deploying Army troops for tours that are half as long but twice as frequent, will not change the basic obstacle.

In previous wars in modern times, the United States has typically sent soldiers abroad for no more than one tough, dangerous year and then let them come home for good. Now it is, as a matter of cold and calculated policy, planning to send the same people back to combat zones every other year as far as the eye can see.

There is no way around it: The United States will have to ask a great deal of its ground forces as long as it stays in Iraq and Afghanistan. Recruiting and training more troops takes time — which is why Rumsfeld and Gen. Peter Schoomaker, the Army chief of staff, were mistaken to oppose a larger military last year when warning signs of a long presence in Iraq already abounded.

That said, it is not too late to ameliorate the situation. Indeed, policy-makers should consider a further increase in U.S. ground

forces even larger than the 40,000 additional soldiers Kerry recommends.

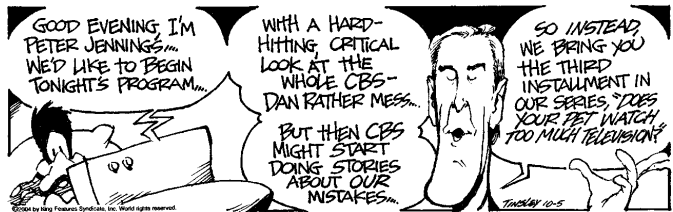
Rumsfeld and Schoomaker argue that any legislated increase in the Army would be difficult to reverse when the additional troops are no longer needed. They further worry that by driving up personnel costs, it could deprive the Army of funding needed to modernize its force structure. But Congress surely will fund defense robustly as long as the large-scale missions in Iraq and Afghanistan continue. And if we someday no longer need a larger Army, we can scale it back. After the Cold War, the United States reduced its Army by 300,000 soldiers; certainly it could administer a reduction one-fifth or one-sixth as large in the future.

No nation can ever truly replace its uniformed men and women who risk, and sometimes lose, their lives for their country. But the United States should do its utmost to be fair to them. It need not and must not ask a small group of dedicated professionals to become strangers to their own families and their own country in the course of waging a war that, far better or worse, we are all engaged in now.

Michael O'Hanlon is a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Cartoon by Mark Fargnoli. © 2004 by Mark Fargnoli. All rights reserved.

Horoscope

Mercury crosses paths with the sun, which is like a cosmic rim shot to a vaudevillian comedian. Vaudeville performers liked to tell the audience what they were going to do and then deliver the act skillfully with a twist, followed by a rim shot to say, "See, I did it!" Our communication follows these lines, and it's clear what has occurred.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (October 5). The year ahead will be a time of great personal change for you. Don't be surprised if you find yourself moving in an entirely new and unforeseen direction, particularly with regard to your love life or a financial arrangement involving someone else's money. And your sex life positively sizzles. Lucky love signs are Scorpio and Leo.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Do you have a friend, love or family member who always makes you feel terrific? Maybe she thinks you're glamorous even when you're wearing an old pair of sweats. Or he thinks your embarrassing social gaffes are adorable.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Someone knows someone who is the perfect person to help you with your agenda. Take a few minutes to go through your Rolodex and make a list of any friends and contacts who might be helpful to you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Pay attention to the intention behind what you say. By focusing on the subject behind your words, you not only gain insight into your own psyche but will also start to pick up on the subtle clues being revealed to you by others.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Think about the key areas of your life. Are you settling for less? There is a way to rearrange things in your world so that your reality is a little more in tune with your desires, while still remaining true to your values.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). The only way to truly empower yourself is to let go of your own need for

control. True power comes from a divine, inexhaustible source, so the more power you give to others, the more you get for yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your body knows what your mind doesn't, so be alert. If you're feeling worn out or in pain, don't just pop an aspirin or have another cup of coffee without first asking yourself what's stressing you out.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Consider what you've added to the world lately. Perhaps you've done something useful or beautiful. Then, figure in what you've subtracted or wasted. If the pluses outweigh your minuses, you're doing OK.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Life is hard enough without your making it tougher. Never stop trying to improve yourself or stretch your limits, but do try to take the path of least resistance. If you don't know what that is, ask the person who loves you best.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Take a gamble on the future, and embark on a new path. Be especially open to any intriguing invitation that comes your way via someone very old or someone very young. It's best to keep any insights to yourself now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Look for the humor in every situation, whether you're stuck in traffic or fighting a serious illness. Laughter really is the best medicine to fight stress and stay young. If it's love that you seek, a smile attracts the most notice.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Being an adult means knowing how to return the love you've given. If someone gives of himself or herself openly and without hesitation, thank your lucky stars, and don't hold back with your affection.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Everything in the universe seems to be made whole again, so completing small tasks can reap big karmic rewards. If your house is in full working order, lend some assistance to a neighbor or co-worker.

Creators Syndicate

Joyce Jolson



Calvin and Hobbes



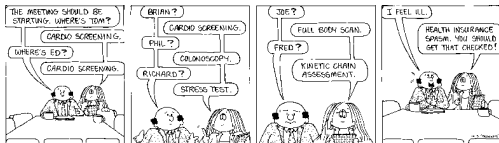
Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red and Rover



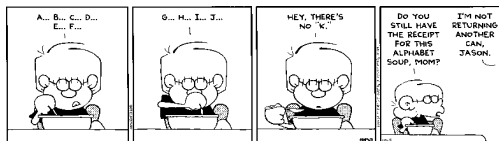
Better or Worse



Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



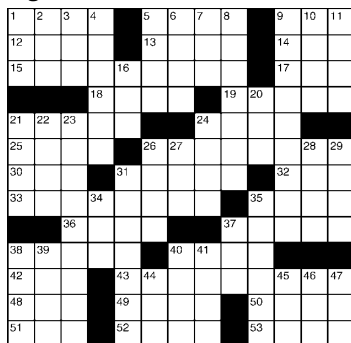
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Adam's third son
5 Canaanite deity
9 Oister

Down

- 12 Mine, in Marseilles
13 Therefore
14 Inventor Whitney
15 What Gellert Burgess "never saw"
17 Born
18 Labyrinth option
19 Beer variety
21 Top story
24 Pig movie
25 Asopian also-ran
26 Simoleon
30 Rushmore face
31 Begat
32 Keenan, in "The Matrix"
33 Piece of bad advice
35 "If — make it there, ..."
36 Existed
37 Bloodhound's clue
38 Fracas
40 Wind instrument
42 Ms. MacGraw
43 Edict from the Vatican
48 Six-pack component
49 Charlatan
50 Largest of the seven
51 Chang's closest kin

- 22 Verboten
23 Aquiver
24 Dutch South African
26 Carriage
27 Raw rock
28 Tilt
29 Typesetter's choice
31 Spire
34 Locate
35 Headache aid
37 Scale member
38 Spiked club
39 Joie de vivre
40 October stone
41 Cell components
44 Have a bag
45 Exploit
46 Tygve of U.N. fame
47 Part of UNLV

Answer to Previous Puzzle



10-5

CRYPTOQUIP

H CUDEV BUJBVJIEIS H
PES HEJ-BEJBWNHAEUI
BUIITWEA CESQA PV BHNNVT

"A QV CHEI DVIA."

Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF AN AILING FELLOW IS GOOD AT READING AND WRITING, IS HE ONE OF THE ILL LITERATE?

Today's Cryptquip Clue: B equals C

Snake closes show

TX HOUSTON — No, it's not a 3-D creature feature. A Houston movie theater — one that was showing "Anacondas" among other films — has shut down while workers hunt for an 8-foot snake.

A maintenance worker said he saw a snake as thick as a man's arm slithering along a wall, said Terrell FUSA, a spokeswoman for Cinemark USA, Inc.

"As soon as he saw it, he left," she said. "I think everyone who was working left."

When the owners of the 16-screen theater heard of it, they closed the place and brought in snake experts.

"We have looked throughout the theater and we haven't found a snake yet," said Ramon Cardenas, owner of Critter Control of Houston, a company that specializes in wildlife control.

It's unclear if the animal escaped or remains inside. Based on the description, the snake people believe it could be a Burmese python.

Houston animal control officers also searched but found no trace of the snake. "Just because we didn't see one doesn't mean it's not there," Houston Health and Human Services Department spokeswoman Kathy Barton said.

Bar owners go to court

CT HARTFORD — Bar and restaurant owners went to court claiming they are denied equal protection under a year-old state law that bans smoking in their establishments, but allows it in private clubs. A Hartford Superior Court judge said he needs more information before making any ruling on the lawsuit. The bar owners say they are losing business to the clubs, and Connecticut's two Indian-run casinos.

Not egg-actly the same

WI EGG HARBOR — Plans to re-enact the egg battle that led to the naming of this town in 1825 were simply too true to be good, state officials have decided.

The Department of Natural Resources said Saturday's event must use plastic eggs, not the real thing, in depicting the historic egg-throwing battle between crews of two boats docked in the harbor on Lake Michigan's Green Bay.

Organizer George Bisbee initially said he wanted to use 3,000 real eggs to re-enact the fight, although he later said he had exaggerated the number.

"It just got so controversial, and I know there are some concerned citizens out there," Bisbee said. "I had plastic eggs as a backup plan all along, so there will be no environmental impact."

After Bisbee announced his plans for a true-to-life egg fight, shoreline property owners and others called the DNR to complain, said Tom Hansen, DNR warden supervisor in Green Bay.

"We've asked that the real eggs not be used, and we will be prepared to enforce that request," Hansen said.

Hansen said eggs are breeding grounds for bacteria, and the invasive zebra mussels growing on the bottom of the bay would feast on the calcium shells.

The original egg fight among sailors was apparently a spur-of-the-moment release of tension, as recounted by Green Bay di-



arist Elizabeth Baird, who happened to be sailing by on another ship.

The egg fight and other attractions will raise money for local scholarship funds.

Help amid Medicaid cuts

MS JACKSON — Gov. Haley Barbour says Medicaid workers have contacted most of the 48,000 Mississippians being cut from a program to help them apply for free or discounted drugs. Attorney General Jim Hood says he'll ask a judge to give lawyers time to determine whether the state gave sufficient notice about other health care options available to those being cut. Barbour proposed the cuts to save the Medicaid program millions of dollars. Some lawmakers say they regret approving the cuts.

Presidential wishes

PA JOHNSTOWN — Ten-year-old Amber Easterbrook says she has three main goals in life: going to heaven, taking a trip to Hawaii and meeting President Bush.

For now, at least, Amber is trying to get the third goal taken care of first.

Amber, of Richland Township, wasn't able to go with her mother, Sherri Easterbrook, to Bush's rally in neighboring Johnstown on Sept.

9. So she gave her mother a note she wrote for Bush, which her mom was able to press into Bush's hand as he greeted supporters.

"Amber wrote that she was a fourth-grader at Johnstown Christian School and that she would pray that Mr. Bush would be re-elected," Easterbrook said.

Sherri Easterbrook didn't expect much in return, because she realized that there was no return address on the letter.

But Bush sent a handwritten letter to Amber in care of her school, which she received last week.

The letter, dated Sept. 12, said: "Dear Amber: Thanks for your kind letter. I wish we could meet sometime. Please give your family my very best wishes... Best wishes always, George Bush."

Van a tall order

IN SHELBYVILLE — Sandy Allen now has enough money to buy her dream van — one big enough to accommodate the 7-foot, 7½-inch frame she has as the world's tallest woman.

Less than a week after announcement of an effort to raise the \$5,000 needed to buy the used van, donations have reached about \$7,000, said Bonnie Shehan, a friend of Allen's.

"People from all over the country are sending money for Sandy," Shehan said.

Shehan had been Allen's unofficial chauffeur, using her minivan to drive Allen places, until the van was stolen. But while Allen said she was glad to leave the nursing home where she lives from time to time, Shehan's van was cramped.

Allen's friends Linda and Larry Fox had seen a van in a used car lot in the city about 25 miles southeast of Indianapolis that they thought would be perfect for Allen.

"When they told me about it, I thought, 'God, this'll never happen. I'm the eternal pessimist,'" said Allen, who is recognized by Guinness World Records as the tallest living woman.

The 49-year-old Allen said she was surprised by the number of people who contributed to the van fund.

"I just didn't know that there were that many people out there who cared," she said.

Shehan said the van account would remain open and that any extra money will be used for the van's insurance and upkeep.

Trees creating danger

WY CODY — Trees killed from wildfires in 1988 in the Shoshone National Forest are falling, blocking trails and creating danger for backcountry hikers and hunters. Since many of the trails are in wilderness, no power tools are allowed — only crosscut saws and axes. Thousands of trees have fallen since last winter, and some trails have been cleared more than once, officials said.

Minimum wage rises

ME AUGUSTA — An estimated 25,000 Mainers got a raise when the state minimum wage goes up a dime to \$6.35 an hour.

Legislation enacted this spring also provides for the state minimum to go up again on Oct. 1, 2009, to \$6.50. Maine is one of 12 states with a minimum higher than the \$5.15 set by the federal government.



Exciting art Liia Thompson puffs up the origami crane she made at Notre Dame de Sion School in Kansas City, Mo., after she and fellow students learned how to make the paper sculptures from a visiting Japanese artist.



Gloomy ride Clouds from an earlier storm drift over the Southern New Mexico State Fair near Las Cruces, N.M.



Invasion of the massive cow A car makes its way down a hill after visiting Lissam Sue, the world's largest Holstein dairy cow, made out of fiberglass and sitting on a perch overlooking the Interstate 94 exit at New Salem, N.D.



Peek-a-boo

A fossa pup takes a quick peek under the watchful eye of its dad (mother) at the San Diego Zoo. Fossas are found only in the forests of Madagascar, where they are the island's largest carnivores. They are now considered an endangered species.



Artistic imagination Anna Clifton, 3, left, and Emma Philip, 4, draw what they hope the flower garden they planted at Traverse Heights Elementary School in Traverse City, Mich., will look like in the spring.



Band reflection Members of the Virginia High School marching band are reflected in the polished surface of Andy Holliens' French horn as he joins fellow band members in practicing the band's homecoming half-time show in Virginia, Minn.



I see you! Luke Crumpton peeks through an opening in a translucent tube on the playground at Lee Academy in Clarksdale, Miss.

Waste storage basins dry

ID IDAHO FALLS — Four underwater nuclear waste storage basins used for more than 50 years at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory are dry. The basins held nuclear waste, plus 770,000 gallons of contaminated water from storage of spent fuel from the Three Mile Island nuclear accident.

The waste is now in dry storage and the water was allowed to evaporate. An epoxy fixative prevents any remaining contaminants from being airborne, clean-up officials said.

Dog gives warning

IN CROWN POINT — Lake County Animal Control officials are crediting a dog with warning them about dangerous smoke coming from an area that contained 10 other dogs.

April Godra, a shelter official, said she knew something wasn't right when Fokie, a normally quiet collie, would not stop barking as Godra made her rounds through the northwestern Indiana kennels.

Then she noticed Fokie looking at the door leading to the garage where the dogs were.

"I opened the door, and smoke started billowing in," Godra said. "I said, 'Oh my God, Fokie, you're just like Lassie. You saved us!'"

A burning motor on the washing machine caused the smoke.

Godra said if it weren't for Fokie, the dogs likely would have died.

"She saved us. She's our baby," Godra said.

Bureau to get grants

KS TOPEKA — The Kansas Bureau of Investigation will get more than \$521,000 in federal grants to help its crime labs, said Eric Melgren, the U.S. attorney for Kansas. The state agency says the money will be used to identify and test backlogged DNA evidence. The FBI has labs in Topeka, Great Bend, Pittsburg and Kansas City, Kan.

Shark sets record

CA MONTEREY — Thought it was safe to go back in the water? Turns out, 16 days wasn't enough.

A young great white shark reached a milestone as it began its 17th day on exhibit at the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

Notorious for their inability to thrive in captivity, no other great whites are currently on display anywhere in the world — and none has ever been kept on exhibit for more than 16 days.

Commercial halibut fishermen inadvertently snagged the young female shark off the coast of Huntington Beach in late August. It had been kept in a 4 million-gallon pen off the Southern California coast until Sept. 14, when it headed north by truck — an unmarked, 3,000-gallon shark tank on wheels — to its new home.

The aquarium is keeping the shark on long-term exhibit in its 1 million-gallon Outer Bay tank, which contains 75 other large fish and turtles. The tank is a little larger than one Olympic-size swimming pool. More than 80,000 people have already seen the shark at its new home.

The shark is 4 feet, 4 inches long and weighs 62 pounds. It could

grow to about 21 feet and weigh more than a ton.

Of the almost 40 great white sharks kept at aquariums over the years, most were unintentionally caught in commercial fishing gear and brought directly to aquariums. They either died or were freed when they wouldn't eat.

Nobody knows why they don't thrive in captivity, although many marine biologists speculate that the predators can't handle the stress of being captured and contained.

Judge rules on permit

NY ALBANY — A state judge is voiding the long overdue permit of a power plant on the Hudson River blamed for killing tens of millions of fish with its old cooling system. The Danskammer Electric Generation Plant in Newburgh will continue in operation until a higher court decides the case. The plant is still operating 12 years after the five-year permit expired.

Census: Decline in kids

SD SIOUX FALLS — The latest Census figures show big declines in the number of young children in rural counties between 2000 to 2003. The change will hit school districts first, says retired economics professor James Satterlee. Eventually entire communities will feel the impact, he says. Lower birth rates and the loss of young couples of childbearing years are the main reasons for the decline.

Minorities flock to county

AL CLAYTON — Hispanic workers have flocked to Alabama's growing poultry industry, changing the profile of rural areas such as Barbour County, where minorities are now in the majority. The Hispanic population in the southeast Alabama county grew 50 percent between 2000 and 2003 as a chicken processing plant in Clayton expanded. The black population grew less than 1 percent, and the white population declined 3.7 percent, according to Census figures.

Pavilion moving

PA PHILADELPHIA — The glass-and-steel pavilion that held the Liberty Bell until last year is moving from Independence National Historical Park to a small business college in the Philadelphia suburbs.

The decision by the American College, which trains professionals in the insurance and financial-services industries, to install the pavilion on its 35-acre campus in Bryn Mawr spurs the architecturally significant structure from demolition.

The pavilion, designed in 1976, is considered one of the finest works of architect Romaldo Giurgola. At the American College, it will become the entrance for an underground conference center and museum and house a replica of the Liberty Bell.

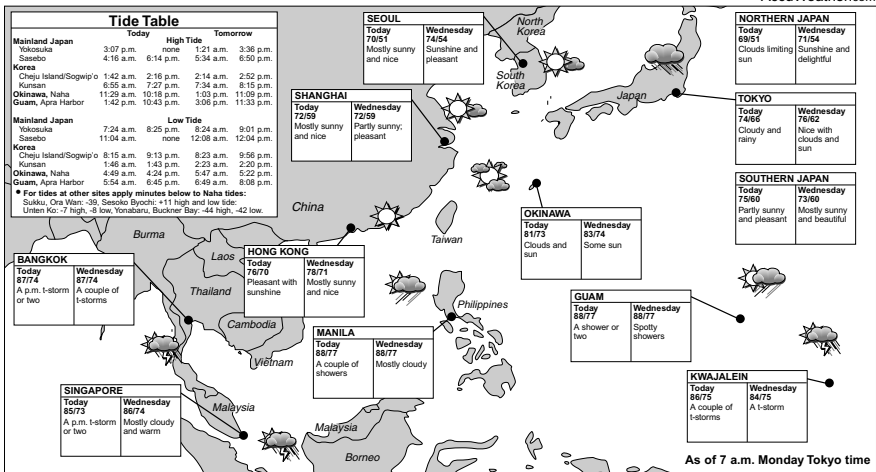
The U.S. General Services Administration, the agency responsible for federal property, selected American over at least two other institutions that vied for the landmark because of the college's proximity to Philadelphia and its connection to Giurgola, who laid out the campus and designed its three main buildings.

Stories and photos from wire services

The Pacific Forecast

All forecasts and maps provided by AccuWeather, Inc. © 2004

AccuWeather.com



SCOREBOARD

AFN TV & Radio

Tuesday

AFN-Sports, 1:30 a.m. - Auto racing: Indy League Toyota to win.

AFN-Sports, 3 a.m. - Baseball playoffs: Teams to be determined, if necessary.

AFN-Baseball, 1:30 a.m. - Pro football: ESPN NFL Monday Night Countdown.

AFN-Baseball, 1:30 a.m. - Pro football: Kansas City vs. Baltimore.

AFN-Baseball, 1:30 a.m. - Pro football: Kansas City vs. Baltimore.

AFN-Sports, 10 a.m. - College football: Series, teams to be determined, Game 1.

AFN-Sports, 4 p.m. - Auto racing: NASCAR Craftsman Truck American Racing Wheels 500 (id).

AFN-Sports, 7 p.m. - Auto racing: NASCAR Nextel Cup EA Sports 500 (id).

Wednesday

AFN-Sports, 2 a.m. - Pro football: Kansas City vs. Baltimore (id); Baseball playoffs: Division Series, teams to be determined, Game 1.

AFN-Sports, 5 a.m. - Baseball playoffs: Division Series, teams to be determined, Game 1.

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m. - WNBA playoffs: Eastern Conference Championship, New York vs. Connecticut, Game 3, if necessary.

AFN-Baseball, 9 a.m. - Baseball playoffs: Division Series, teams to be determined, Game 1.

AFN-Sports, 11 a.m. - WNBA playoffs: Western Conference Championship, Sacramento vs. Seattle, Game 3, if necessary.

AFN-Sports, 7 p.m. - Auto racing: NASCAR Craftsman Truck American Racing Wheels 500 (id); Pro football: Kansas City vs. Baltimore (id).

All Times Japan and Korea Standards Time do not include Daylight Savings Time. All listings are subject to change. Some radio broadcast may not be available.

www.afn.net for more information.

Auto racing

Toyota Indy 400
After Saturday qualifying, fans Sunday
at California Speedway
Vehicular

Length: 2 miles
(Car number in parentheses)

1. (2) Helio Castroneves, Dallas-Toyota, 216.479 mph

2. (16) Scott Dixon, Panaz & Force-Toyota, 216.367

3. (26) Sam Hornish Jr., Dallas-Toyota, 216.082

4. (14) Ryan Newman, Pennzoil & Force-Honda, 215.970

5. (14) Buddy Rice, Pennzoil & Force-Honda, 214.824

6. (14) A.J. Foyt, Indy, Dallas-Toyota, 214.636

7. (7) Bryan Herta, Dallas-Toyota, 214.495

8. (14) Tony Krohn, Dallas-Toyota, 214.344

9. (14) Ed Carpenter, Dallas-Chevrolet, 214.086

10. (16) Matt Taylor, Panaz & Force-Honda, 214.030

11. (14) Tony Stewart, Dallas-Chevrolet, 213.993

12. (14) Dan Wheldon, Dallas-Honda, 213.861

13. (14) Scott Sharp, Dallas-Toyota, 213.824

14. (14) Alex Barron, Dallas-Chevrolet, 213.815

15. (14) Townsend Bell, Dallas-Chevrolet, 213.805

16. (14) Casey Mears, Pennzoil & Force-Honda, 213.677

17. (14) Tony Stewart, Dallas-Chevrolet, 213.670

18. (14) Felipe Giaffone, Dallas-Chevrolet, 213.667

19. (14) Tony Takagi, Dallas-Honda, 213.629

20. (14) Tony Kanaan, Dallas-Honda, no speed.

Japan baseball

Central League

Club	W	L	Pct.	GB
Chunichi	70	61	53.4	6.5
Yokohama	70	61	53.4	6.5
Yomiuri	69	62	52.4	7.5
Yokohama	68	63	51.9	8.5
Hiroshima	68	62	52.0	8.0
Hiroshima	56	74	43.1	20.0

(GB - Central League playoff position)

Sunday's games
Chunichi 11, Yokohama vs. Yomiuri, postponed, rain.

Pacific League

Club	W	L	Pct.	GB
Daiichi	71	52	57.7	-
Yokohama	69	54	56.1	1.5
Nippon Ham	66	57	53.4	4.5
Yokohama	61	70	46.6	17.5
Kintetsu	61	70	46.6	17.5

(GB - Central League playoff position)

Sunday's games
Chunichi 11, Yokohama vs. Yomiuri, postponed, rain.

Pro soccer

Major League Soccer
Eastern Conference

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Columbus	11	11	37	48	30
MetStars	11	11	39	44	40
Chicago	11	11	39	41	41
San Jose	11	11	39	41	41

Western Conference

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Kansas City	10	10	40	37	30
Los Angeles	10	10	40	37	30
San Jose	10	10	39	31	31
Portland	10	10	39	31	31

Notes: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Saturday's games
New England 2, Dallas 1
Chicago 4, Colorado 3
D.C. United 1, MetStars 0
San Jose 1, Colorado 1
Kansas City 1, Los Angeles 1
Columbus at Chicago

Sunday, Oct. 9
Columbus at MetStars
New England at D.C. United
Dallas at Los Angeles
Kansas City at San Jose

Tennis
Gaz de France Stars

Sunday
At Ellis Arena
Hackett, Sweden, Thailand
Purse: \$170,000 (Tie II)

Singles
Charles Panatta, Italy

Women's
Elena Dementieva (1), Czech Republic, def. Elena Bovina (2), Russia, 6-3, 6-4

Doubles
Joanne Russell, United States, and Mara Santangelo, Italy, def. Martina Mariani, Italy, 6-3, 6-4

Thailand Open
Sunday
At Impact Arena, Bangkok, Thailand
Purse: \$250,000 (Tie I, Series)

Singles
Thailand Open, def. Jeff Wilton 7-5, 7-6 (7)

Doubles
Thailand Open, def. Alex Roper 6-3, 6-4

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Thailand Open
Sunday
At Impact Arena, Bangkok, Thailand
Purse: \$250,000 (Tie I, Series)

Singles
Thailand Open, def. Jeff Wilton 7-5, 7-6 (7)

Thomas Bjorn, \$675,000 68-69-66-68-71-27
David Howell, \$645,000 69-68-66-71-27
Barry Clarke, \$500,000 71-65-68-68-71-27
Sergio Garcia, \$308,000 67-67-70-70-27-12
Barry Hines, \$200,000 68-68-68-71-27-12
Tommy Leonard, \$100,000 68-68-68-71-27-12
David Milner, \$100,000 68-68-68-71-27-12
Paul O'Donnell, \$100,000 68-68-68-71-27-12
Tiger Woods, \$100,000 68-68-68-71-27-12
Rickie Fowler, \$100,000 68-68-68-71-27-12
Matt Kuchar, \$100,000 68-68-68-71-27-12
Adam Long, \$100,000 68-68-68-71-27-12
David Toms, \$100,000 68-68-68-71-27-12
Lee Westwood, \$100,000 68-68-68-71-27-12
Graeme McDowell, \$100,000 68-68-68-71-27-12
Paul Casey, \$100,000 68-68-68-71-27-12
Justin Rose, \$100,000 68-68-68-71-27-12
Viktor Hovland, \$100,000 68-68-68-71-27-12
Freddie Johnston, \$100,000 68-68-68-71-27-12
Graeme McDowell, \$100,000 68-68-68-71-27-12
Adam Long, \$100,000 68-68-68-71-27-12
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Auburn's Campbell silences critics with win

BY RALPH D. RUSSO

The Associated Press

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Jason Campbell is running the West Coast offense like an old pro and turning Auburn into a national title contender in the process.

The often-criticized quarterback threw for 252 yards and two touchdowns, and the eighth-ranked Tigers overwhelmed No. 10 Tennessee 34-10 on Saturday night.

Carnell Williams and Ronnie Brown each ran for a touchdown to complement Campbell, and the Tigers' swarming defense made Tennessee's two freshmen quarterbacks look like neophytes for the first time this season. Junior Rosegreen had four interceptions to set a record for Auburn (5-0, 3-0 Southeastern Conference) and tie the SEC mark.

"All day long I heard about how great their two quarterbacks are," Auburn coach Tommy Tuberville said. "I wouldn't trade them for the one we've got, [Campbell] played a great football game."

Erik Ainge got his first start for the Volunteers (3-1, 1-1) after racking up the best passer rating in the SEC over the first three games. The promotion did no good. He went 17-for-35 for 173 yards with four interceptions and a fumble.

Fellow freshman Brent Schaeffer had little success in his first game as a reliever. He also threw an interception and went 1-for-5.

"They're freshmen, they're going to learn," Vols coach Phillip Fulmer said. "We played against a better football team tonight."

Campbell has often received the blame from fans and media for Auburn's past offensive inconsistencies, despite playing for four offensive coordinators in four seasons.

"That is something I have never worried about in my career," Campbell said. "I always knew I wasn't getting the credit people should give me, but that's one thing I didn't worry about."



Auburn's Carnell Williams (24) tries to get away from Tennessee's Jonathan Hefney during the second quarter of their game Saturday. Williams had 24 carries for 98 yards.

He is finally flourishing under coordinator Al Borges' West Coast offense, with its multiple shifts, quick throws and moving pockets. He also is showing the confidence and poise of a quarterback with 32 career starts.

Campbell summed up the transformation simply. "They're giving me the opportunity to use all my abilities."

Against the Vols, he looked off defenders and stepped up in the pocket. He threw with fine touch over defenders and zipped passes in between them. Campbell was 12-for-15 in the first half for 240 yards to lead the Tigers to a 31-3 lead.

The Tigers took the field knowing that their two main SEC West rivals — LSU and Arkansas — had lost. As if bolstered by the opportunity to grab command of the division, Auburn controlled the first quarter.

The Tigers forced a three-and-out on the first series of the game, got a piece of Tennessee's punt, and Campbell and his two star tailbacks went to work at their own 45.

The Tigers drove the field with a mix of power running and quick passes. Brown finished the job by bowling over Tennessee's Jason Allen, knocking the safety's helmet off on the way to a 9-yard touchdown run.

After the Vols responded with a field goal, the Tigers marched down the field again but couldn't complete the drive this time. Brown fumbled at the 5 and Tennessee recovered at the 1.

It was only a temporary reprieve for the Vols.

Ainge lost the ball on a sneak and Auburn was back in the red zone. Campbell then made it 14-3 with a 5-yard pass to Ben Obomanu.

When Williams ran over Allen for a 5-yard touchdown in the second quarter it was 24-3 and most of the 107,828 fans at Neyland Stadium were stunned silent.

"We had so many mistakes we put them in perfect position to win," Tennessee linebacker Kevin Burnett said. "Mental errors, missed tackles. That comes back to hurt you in the end."

Just when it looked as though Tennessee might make a game of it, Auburn's defense came up with its third takeaway. Travis Williams picked off Ainge's tipped pass at the LSU 32 with 2:05 left in the half.

Auburn wasn't about to get conservative. Campbell went deep on the next play, hitting Brown for 38 yards.

Moments later, Campbell threw a bullet to Courtney Taylor slanting over the middle and the receiver broke free for a 31-yard TD play and a 28-point halftime lead.

Rosegreen picked off three passes in a second half that was otherwise a formality.

For Tennessee, it gets no easier next week; the Vols go to Georgia, which made a statement of its own with a 45-16 victory over LSU on Saturday.

"We have a lot left to go," Vols tackle Michael Munoz said. "We still control our destiny in the SEC East."

Auburn, a team that fell far short of lofty expectations last season, now has a 1½-game lead in the SEC West and its first win at Knoxville since 1983.

"We had something to prove," Tuberville said. "We got better each snap. We got stronger each snap."

Greene, Georgia dash LSU's hopes for title repeat

BY PAUL NEWBERY

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Ga. — Georgia's offense finally showed up, and the Bulldogs now truly look like a team that's capable of challenging for a national championship.

The LSU Tigers' hopes of making another run at No. 1 are finished. David Greene set a school record by throwing five touchdown passes and No. 3 Georgia got a huge victory in the Southeastern Conference, shredding 13th-ranked LSU and its fear-some defense 45-16 on Saturday.

"It was something you probably just dream about," Greene said. Georgia (4-0, 0-0 SEC) has never been an offensive juggernaut during Mark Richt's four years as coach, and the last two games were especially frustrating. The Bulldogs scored only three touchdowns in their defensive-led victories over South Carolina and Marshall.

"I was little befuddled," Richt admitted. "We had practiced extremely well. We had some guys who could make plays. I was trying to figure out why we couldn't make those plays in the game."

Problem solved. Less than 21 minutes into this one, Georgia already had reached the end zone three times against a defense that was ranked fifth nationally in both points and yards allowed.

By the end, LSU (3-2, 1-2) had given up its most points since a 56-13 loss to Florida in 1996.

"This was a curveball to me," Tigers coach Nick Saban said. "When things like this happen, you must dig deep down inside."

Greene completed 10 of 19 passes for 172 yards, but half his completions went for TDs. He tied Johnny Rauch as the winningest quarterback in Georgia history with his 36th victory as a starter.

Reggie Brown had two TD catches and set a career high with 110 yards receiving. Fred Gibson also had a pair of scoring passes.

LSU cornerback Trey Daniels had an especially miserable day, getting burned on three of Greene's touchdowns.

The Bulldogs took advantage of the Tigers' blitzing scheme, protecting well up the middle and relying on their receivers to beat the man-on-man coverage.

"Greene just put the ball up in the air and told us to go get it,"

Gibson said. "I guess they were shocked. We came out and really didn't do anything wrong."

The Bulldogs didn't just pass the ball. Freshman Danny Ware, who sat out the last game with a bruised lung, rushed for 109 yards.

Another freshman, Thomas Brown, chipped in with 81 yards and scored Georgia's final touchdown on a short run.

The Georgia defense made life miserable for LSU quarterbacks Marcus Randall and JaMarcus Russell, who spent most of the afternoon running for their lives and wound up getting sacked five times. Hard-hitting safety Thomas Davis caused two fumbles by Tigers running backs, both of them leading to Georgia touchdowns.

The Tigers claimed the BCS share of the national title last season, but there won't be any repeat. LSU already has more losses than its championship team.

That's not the only change from 2003.

LSU beat the Bulldogs twice on their way to No. 1, including a 34-13 rout in last year's SEC championship game. Georgia avenged the worst loss of the Richt era with a replay of that De-

cember game, only it was the red and black dominating this one.

"I didn't see it coming," said LSU cornerback Corey Webster, who also gave up a TD pass. "We made those plays last year."

The Bulldogs raced to a 24-0 lead, withstood a brief flurry from LSU at the end of the first half and sealed the victory in the third quarter.

On Georgia's second possession, Greene led a perfect pass down the right side. Reggie Brown outjumped Daniels for the ball and got a foot down just inside the pylon for a 25-yard touchdown catch.

D.J. Shockley relieved Greene on Georgia's next possession, completing a 47-yard pass to Brown that set up Andy Bailey's 32-yard field goal.

The Bulldogs didn't let up. Davis jarred the ball loose from Justin Vincent and Quentin Mosser recovered at the LSU 35. Greene went back in and finished off the drive with a 2-yard TD pass to Gibson, who leaped over Daniels to make it 17-0.

LSU fumbled the ball right back. Davis stuck his helmet into Jacob Hester's belly, the ball came flying out and Odell Thurman fell on it at the LSU 40.

Georgia took advantage again. Thomas Brown converted a fourth-and-1 by breaking a tackle in the backfield, then Greene floated a 29-yard scoring pass to Reggie Brown, who made a leaping catch and somehow got a toe down before tumbling out of bounds.

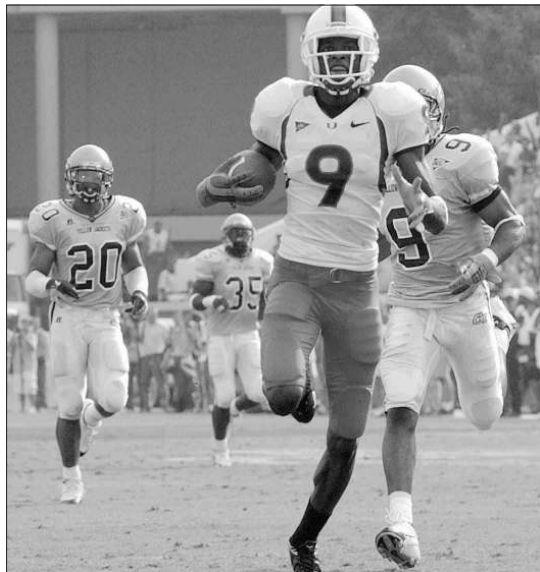
Once again, Daniels was the man getting beat. Down by 24 points, the Tigers finally showed signs of life.

Russell threw an 18-yard TD pass to Dwayne Bowe with 1:23 left in the half, and the Tigers got the ball back after a short punt.

Russell completed a 24-yard pass to Craig Davis, leading to Chris Jackson's 31-yard field goal on the final play of the half.

LSU went off the field with some momentum, but it didn't last long. Greene threw two more touchdowns passes in the third to Reggie Brown. He tied 24-24 to Gibson and a 21-yarder to Sean Bailey, the first TD of his career.

The Bulldogs have another crucial SEC game next week against No. 10 Tennessee. Now, at least, they know their offense can keep up with the other side of the line. "Hopefully," Richt said, "this will give us some confidence, some momentum. We needed a boost for sure."



Atlanta wide receiver Lance Leggett (9) heads for the end zone after making a reception during second quarter of the Hurricanes 27-3 victory over the Yellow Jackets, Saturday, in Atlanta.

Miami overwhelms Ga. Tech

BY CHARLES ODDUM
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — A potential quarterback controversy in Miami was silenced before it could gain momentum, but another strong showing by the Hurricanes' defense may help force a quarterback change at Georgia Tech.

Brock Berlin had a career-high three touchdowns passes Saturday as No. 4 Miami shut down turn-over-plagued Georgia Tech 27-3. "That was probably our most complete game that we've had," said Miami coach Larry Coker. "I'm very encouraged. I really liked what I saw."

Miami forced four turnovers and has allowed only one offensive touchdown this season.

Coker said he wanted to give freshman backup quarterback Kyle Wright some playing time, but was encouraged by Berlin's passing.

"I think he was a lot more aggressive," Coker said. "He put a lot of extra practice time in with what he was doing. And guys came up with plays for him."

Frank Gore rushed for 115 yards and, like Berlin, was held out in the fourth quarter when Miami (4-0, 2-0 ACC) had the game under control.

Miami led 10-3 when Coker put Wright in the game. The Hurricanes were held without a first down in his two possessions. Berlin came back to lead Miami to a field goal and touchdown for a 20-3 halftime lead.

"That was the coach's decision, and I was behind his decision all the way," Berlin said. "I wasn't upset in the least."

There had been calls for Miami to make a change at quarterback after Berlin threw only two touchdown passes in his first three games.

Berlin completed 10 of 20 passes for 200 yards with no interceptions against Tech. Two of his three scoring passes went to Roscoe Parrish.

Wright returned to play the fourth quarter and completed 4 of 6 passes for 24 yards.

Tech's Reggie Ball threw three interceptions for the second straight week and the Yellow Jackets were hurt by the loss of ACC rushing leader P.J. Daniels, who was held out with a strained quadriceps.

Ball rushed for 60 yards and fill-in starting tailback Chris Woods rushed for 74 yards as Tech (2-2, 1-2) outruled Miami 162-140. But the Hurricanes outgained Tech 224-68 in passing yards, and Ball completed only 8 of 25 passes.

"I thought we would go in and run the football, and we did,"

ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/AP

said Tech coach Chan Gailey. "I thought we would throw the football better, and we didn't."

Ball has eight interceptions for the season.

"If we're going to have turnovers, we're going to have to stop throwing it. I guess, but you know we can't do that," Gailey said. "We're just going to have to come up with some answers."

Tech receiver Nate Curry said Miami's defense forced Ball to rush his passes.

"I have not played well the last two weeks," Ball said. "If coach thinks that he needs to make a change, I'm all for it."

For one play, Tech appeared capable of moving the ball without Daniels. Woods broke free for a 56-yard run on the first play from scrimmage to the Miami 11, but the Yellow Jackets had to settle for a 24-yard field goal by Travis Bell.

Miami answered Bell's field goal with the first of two field goals by Jon Peattie, a 49-yarder.

But it was obvious Tech missed Daniels. In one second-quarter series, Ball and Damarus Bilbo took turns running the ball on four straight quarterback keepers. The drive ended with Ball's second interception. Brandon Meriweather picked off a pass intended for Levon Thomas.

After Meriweather's interception, Berlin passed to Lance Leggett over the middle for a 57-yard touchdown pass and a 20-3 lead.

Fresno State has BCS hopes dashed

The Associated Press

RUSTON, La. — Because Ryan Moats refused to rest, No. 17 Fresno State won't bust the BCS.

Moats scored his fourth touchdown with less than four minutes left and ran for 236 yards to lead Louisiana Tech to a 28-21 victory Saturday night.

"I knew I had to carry the load," said Moats, who had 34 carries. "I know I just can't get tired, and I just want the team to keep giving me the ball."

The nation's fifth-leading rusher, Moats scored from 8 yards out with 3:20 remaining to help Tech beat a ranked team for the second time in school history.

"The biggest victory we have had here, by a long way," Tech coach Jack Becknell said.

A two-touchdown favorite, Fresno State led 21-20 with four minutes left and was trying to run out the clock. But Byron Santiago intercepted a pass by Paul Pinegar and returned it to the 16. Moats scored two plays later, and Matt Kubik hit Eric Newman for the 2-point conversion.

Fresno State drove to the Tech 20, but Tramon Williams picked off Pinegar's pass with 1:03 remaining to seal it. Tech ran out the clock and fans flooded the field and tore down both goal posts in a matter of seconds.

"We needed to get one of these games, and we did," Becknell said.

So much for Fresno State playing a bowl game in January.

After impressive road wins at Wake Forest and Kansas State, Fresno State allowed itself to dream of the BCS — just as it did three years ago, the last time it was ranked.

But once again, Fresno State's chances at a high-profile bowl evaporated because they couldn't beat a Western Athletic Conference foe in its home field. Boise State spoiled Fresno State's season then and has won all three of the meetings since joining the conference in 2001.

The 28th-ranked Broncos and Fresno State play Oct. 23, but that meeting doesn't have the same size after the Bulldogs' loss.

"We need to not expect like we needed to in order to win a road game like this," Fresno State coach Pat Hill said. "We now have to regroup and refocus our goals to win the WAC title and go to our sixth straight bowl game."

Kubik was 15-for-26 for 158 yards for Tech.

Miami entered averaging 173 yards per game, also scored on runs of 83, 6 and 1 yards.

But his fourth-quarter fumble in Tech territory nearly cost the game. Fresno State recovered it at the 27, and took a 21-14 lead three plays later on a 3-yard touchdown run by Wendell Davis.

"It did not look like we could stop anyone early, but they started playing well and things changed," Becknell said.

Tech (2-2, 2-0 WAC) closed within a point on Moats' third TD run, but James Sanders blocked the extra-point attempt. Santiago

Top 25

ended Fresno State's ensuing drive with his interception.

Mathis ran for 191 yards and a touchdown to lead Fresno State (3-1, 0-1), the first ranked team to visit Ruston since Louisiana Tech moved to Division I-A 16 years ago. Last season, Tech did play Miami in Shreveport.

Louisiana Tech's only other win against a ranked team came in 1999, when it beat No. 18 Alabama 49-28 in Tuscaloosa.

No. 10 California 49, Oregon St. 7: Chase Lyman had five catches for a career-high 176 yards and three touchdowns, and Aaron Rodgers completed 12 of 16 passes for 140 yards and three scores for visiting California (3-0, 1-0 Pac-10).

Cal had not played for 20 days. A game against Southern Mississippi, originally scheduled for Sept. 16, was postponed by Hurricane Ivan.

No. 18 Minnesota 16, Penn St. 7: Laurence Maroney ran for 144 yards and a touchdown and No. 18 Minnesota overcame visiting Penn State's scrappy defense.

The Gophers (5-0, 2-0 Big Ten) recorded their second straight 5-0 start since 1940-41 and have won four in a row against Penn State. But Minnesota's offense, which entered the game averaging 44 points, stalled frequently against the Lions (2-3, 0-2).

While Maroney set a school record with his sixth consecutive 100-yard rushing game, the Lions helped limit Minnesota's powerful backfield by holding Maroney Barber III to 88 yards on 21 carries and one score. Bryan Cupto went 8-for-18 for 113 yards and an interception for the Gophers.

No. 19 Michigan 35, Indiana 14: Chad Henne threw for 316 yards and three touchdowns, and Leon Hart returned a punt 76 yards for a score for visiting Michigan, which retained a share of the Big Ten lead by winning its third straight game.

No. 21 Arizona St. 28, Oregon 13: Andrew Walter overcame a shaky start to throw three touchdown passes and third-string tailback Hakim Hill ran for 134 yards and a touchdown to lead visiting Arizona State.

Oregon (1-3, 0-1) had won seven straight Pac-10 openers.

No. 22 Louisville 59, East Carolina 7: In Louisville, Ky., Eric Shelton tied a Cardinals record with five rushing touchdowns and finished with 129 yards.

Louisville forced five turnovers and converted three into touchdowns in its final tuneup before the Oct. 14 date with fourth-ranked Miami.

No. 23 Boise St. 38, SMU 20: Jared Zabransky threw for 190 yards and two touchdowns to help Boise extend the longest winning streak in the nation to 16 games. The Broncos also won at home for the 22nd straight time.

Trinidad a big hit in return

Ex-middleweight champ KO's Mayorga after 2-year layoff

BY BARRY WILNER

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Felix "Tito" Trinidad stood by the ring, exhorting the flag-waving, chanting fans to fill the building with noise — before the fight.

After the disposal of Ricardo Mayorga with an eighth-round knockout to conclude a rousing return to the ring Saturday night, Trinidad climbed the ring ropes and sang the same thing.

And Madison Square Garden, the Puerto Rican star's home away from home, seemed to shake.

"I came back to win," Trinidad said after he pummeled Mayorga in the eighth round, knocking him down three times before the fight was stopped with 21 seconds left in the round. "Before this fight, there were a lot of doubts.

"I told [promoter Don King] I could win and I did it."

In his first fight in more than two years, Trinidad simply overwhelmed the game Mayorga with a barrage of punches, including a left hook that finished the middleweight fight in front of a raucous crowd of 17,406.

"I've been in tough wars before, but I dominated this fight," Trinidad said. "He can take a good punch and he took a lot, which was bad for him."

Trinidad, 42-1 with 35 knockouts, lost the middleweight championship three years ago to Bernard Hopkins. After one more fight, he retired, unable to get a rematch with Hopkins.

Instead, Trinidad spent "the good life" in Puerto Rico, he said. But at 31, he is back and he showed against Mayorga that he is

in his prime — and probably worthy of that rematch with Hopkins.

"I came out of this in excellent condition," he said. "It was a tough fight."

Mayorga never had been knocked down, but he was cut under the left eye in the fifth round, and he had to stop from a low blow to the right thigh in the sixth. Referee Steve Smoger allowed him nearly two minutes to recover with 40 seconds to go in the sixth, but Mayorga never was the same the rest of the way.

Mayorga, of Nicaragua, fell to 26-5-1. He knocked down Trinidad in the third and fought particularly well in the third and fourth rounds.

"I felt good about my performance, but my eye swelled up and I couldn't see some shots," he said Mayorga, who was taken to a hospital for observation.

Els captures World Golf title

The Associated Press

THOMASTOWN, Ireland — The majors over, Ernie Els got a consolation prize Sunday by capturing his first World Golf Championship.

Els outlasted Thomas Bjorn in a brilliantly played duel at Mount Juliet, making a 6-foot birdie on the 17th hole for a cushion he desperately needed and closing with a 3-under 69 to win the American Express Championship by one shot.

The victory, his fourth of the year, allowed the 34-year-old South African to move past Tiger Woods to No. 2 in the world ranking, and gave Els yet another chance to reach No. 1 by the end of the year.

His next target is Vijay Singh, who didn't play this week because of damage to his Florida home by Hurricane Jeanne. The remnants of that storm covered southwestern Ireland with rain that spit down on Mount Juliet the entire day, although Els and Bjorn battled in the rain.

They were the only two players who had a realistic chance of winning, and neither was willing to give it away.

"I tried to put him away, but I couldn't," Els said. "He didn't want to go away."

Bjorn, in contention for the first time since February, closed with a 4-under 68 and was within one shot of Els on three occasions. The 33-year-old Dane had a 70-foot eagle putt on the 17th hole, but ran it 10 feet by and missed the birdie putt coming back.

Els was short of the green, but putted to 6 feet and made the putt.

That gave him the breathing room he needed. Els found the bunker on the 18th and blasted out to 15 feet, but when Bjorn missed his birdie putt from 40 feet, the South African could take two putts for his bogey.



Maria Sharapova of Russia returns a backhand to Poland's Marta Domachowska during the final of the Korea Open in Seoul on Sunday. Sharapova won 6-1, 6-1 to earn the fifth singles title of her career.

Els finished at 18-under 270 and earned \$1.2 million, giving him firm control of the European tour money list.

Federer matches Borg with 12 straight finals victories

BANGKOK, Thailand — Top-ranked Roger Federer routed an injured Andy Roddick 6-4, 6-0 Sunday to capture the Thailand Open, joining John McEnroe and Bjorn Borg as the only players to win 12 straight ATP Tour finals in the last 25 years.

"It would be nice to break their record, but I'll take one tournament at a time," said Federer, who has won 10 titles this year. "I hope to play well until the end of the season."

Federer needed just 58 minutes to defeat the second-seeded Roddick, whose elbow was sore from his semifinal victory over Marat Safin.

Federer has won three majors this year — the Australian Open,

Wimbledon and U.S. Open. He started the streak in Vienna, Austria, last October. He reached the semifinals at Madrid, Spain, and quarterfinals at Paris before winning the Tennis Masters Cup final in Houston to close the 2003 season.

"I came here not knowing what to expect," the top-seeded Swiss said. "I never believed I would win 10 titles in one year."

Sun reach WNBA Finals

UNSCVILLE, Conn. — The Connecticut Sun reached the WNBA Finals for the first time by beating the New York Liberty 60-57 Sunday behind Taj McWilliams-Franklin's 18 points to complete a two-game sweep of the Eastern Conference finals.

McWilliams-Franklin went 1-for-2 at the line with 48 seconds left to give the Sun a 55-54 edge and help deny New York a fifth trip to the championship series. She also had nine rebounds.



Dale Earnhardt Jr., left, passes Kevin Harvick on the next-to-last lap of the EA Sports 500 at the Talladega Superspeedway in Talladega, Ala.

Fifth Talladega win puts Earnhardt atop Nextel Cup standings

The Associated Press

TALLADEGA, Ala. — Dale Earnhardt Jr. changed the race with place to a victory and the series points lead in the last five laps of Sunday's NASCAR Nextel Cup race at Talladega Superspeedway.

Although he was at or near the front virtually the entire EA Sports 500, leading a race-high 78 of the 188 laps, Earnhardt fell behind when crew chief Tony Eury Sr. decided to gamble on two fresh right-side tires on his final pit stop.

Other drivers got ahead of Earnhardt by staying on the track or taking only fuel on their final stops during the last of five caution periods in the race. But it made little difference once the green flag waved for lap 184.

"Those brand new rights just drove around the corners so much better than those other guys with old tires out there," Earnhardt said. "I wasn't worried. They make the calls in the pits and I just drive the car."

Earnhardt had a streak of four straight Talladega wins stopped in April when he finished second to Jeff Gordon in a somewhat controversial finish, with NASCAR determining that Gordon was leading when a yellow flag waved and froze the field. The race finished that way under caution to the displeasure of the spectators.

"I'm just glad to get back on top at Talladega," Earnhardt said. "He drew a roar from the partisan crowd when he added, 'This is my place.'"

His 14th career victory and fifth of the season also moved Earnhardt from third in the standings to a 13-point lead over Kurt Busch, who finished fifth. Gordon, who came into the race with a one-point lead over Busch, finished 19th and fell to third, 61 points behind after three of the 10 races in NASCAR's new 10-man playoff-style championship.

It was a far different atmosphere than in April when the disappointed fans booed and threw beer cans and trash onto the track as Gordon took the checkered flag.

After the green flag waved for the final restart, Earnhardt's red No. 8 Chevrolet shot forward, moving up and down the steeply banked track, passing cars on the outside and inside seemingly at will before finally moving past

Racing roundup

Kevin Harvick for the lead on lap 186.

Earnhardt then held off Harvick's Chevrolet, driving across the finish line 0.117 seconds — about two car-lengths — ahead.

Dale Jarrett finished third, followed by rookie Brendan Gaughan, Busch, title contender Tony Stewart and pole-starter Joe Nemecek.

Among the other contenders in NASCAR's playoff, defending series champion Matt Kenseth finished 14th, followed by Mark Martin and Ryan Newman. Jimmie Johnson had an engine failure and finished 37th, while Jeremy Mayfield was taken out in a four-car wreck on lap 148.

The results widened the gap among the contenders, with Martin now 111 points behind in fourth and Mayfield in 10th, 172 back.

Bodine races to first truck win

FONTANA, Calif. — Former Nextel Cup driver Todd Bodine raced to his first Craftsman Truck Series victory Saturday night, ending Ted Musgrave's three-race winning streak at California Speedway.

Bodine held off Musgrave by 0.049 seconds, with both drivers avoiding a crash on the final lap on the two-mile track. The winner averaged 127.141 mph in his Toyota in the 100-lap race that was slowed by only four caution periods.

Jack Sprague was third, followed by David Starr and series leader Bobby Hamilton. David Reutimann, Johnny Benson, Steve Park, Dennis Setzer and Carl Edwards. Hamilton increased his lead to 56 points over Setzer with five races remaining.

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Astros claim wild card

Late-season rush makes Houston final playoff entrant

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — The Houston Astros charged into the playoffs with their 18th consecutive home victory, capping an incredible turnaround by beating Colorado 5-3 on Sunday to win the NL wild card.

Brandon Backe filled in admirably for ailing Roger Clemens, pitching five innings and driving in two runs.

Houston won the final seven games of the regular season and nine of the last 10 to complete an amazing late-season push for the playoffs under manager Phil Garner, who replaced Jimmy Williams at the All-Star break.

The Astros will go to Atlanta for Game 1 of the division series on Wednesday. The Braves have eliminated Houston three times in the last seven postseasons.

It's the second straight year an NL team replaced its manager in the middle of the season and went on to win the wild card. Jack McKeon led the Florida Marlins to a surprising World Series title in 2003.

Houston tied a season high Sunday with four stolen bases — even the plodding Jeff Bagwell got one. The Astros used seven pitchers for the second time in three days, and Brad Lidge got his 29th save.

Backe, an outfielder in Tampa Bay's minor league system for his first three years, had a two-run single in the second to give the Astros a 2-0 lead.

The Astros added three runs in the third on Lance Berkman's RBI double, and run-scoring singles by Jeff Kent and Jose Vizcaino.

Cubs 10, Braves 8: Greg Maddux (16-11) beat visiting Atlanta in his first appearance against the team for which he pitched for 11 seasons.

Maddux worked six innings and gave up two homers to Charles Thomas while yielding six runs.

The Cubs, eliminated from the NL wild-card race Saturday after losing seven of eight games, got homers from Moises Alou, Mark Grudzielanek and rookie Jason Dubois in the finale at Wrigley Field.

Maddux rejoined the Cubs as a free agent in the offseason and although he's given up a career-high 35 homers, got his 300th victory and also ran up 15 victories for a major league-record 17th straight years. Maddux has 305 victories, 111 for the Cubs.

Cardinals 9, Brewers 4: Seldom-used Ray Lankford hit a two-run pinch-hit homer as host St. Louis finished the regular season on a strong note.

Albert Pujols doubled twice, So Taguchi doubled and tripled and Yadier Molina homered for the NL Central champions, who won only two of their last seven games.

The Cardinals relied on its bullpen for the second straight game to conserve their starters for the postseason, and used eight pitchers for a three-game total of 20.

Mets 8, Expos 1: The Washington, D.C.-bound Expos lost their final game representing Montreal as host New York's Todd Zeile hit a three-run homer — his 253rd — in his final at-bat before retirement.

The game was also the last for Art Howe as the Mets' manager. He was fired Sept. 15, but chose to stay on to finish out the season.



Todd Zeile tips his hat after hitting a three-run home run in the sixth inning Sunday against the Montreal Expos in his final at-bat before retiring.

Pirates 2, Reds 0: Barry Larkin, the Reds' captain, played in what might have been his final game for his hometown team.

The 40-year-old shortstop, who has spent all 19 seasons with the Reds, started the game and was replaced after three innings — getting a proper send-off from fans and teammates.

In Saturday's NL games:

Diamondbacks 7, Padres 6: Randy Johnson (16-14) got some rare offensive support, including his own two-run double and the host Diamondbacks rallied from a five-run deficit.

Johnson allowed six runs — only one earned — and 10 hits in eight innings. He struck out eight and walked none to cap a strong season made more impressive by the struggles of the Diamondbacks, who have lost 111 games. It was the first time in 11 starts that Arizona scored more than three runs for Johnson, the major league strikeouts leader with 290.

Astros 9, Rockies 3: Roy Oswalt (20-10) became the NL's first 20-game winner and Jeff Kent and Craig Biggio each homered twice as host Houston took over the lead in the NL wild-card chase.

Expos 6, Mets 3: Brad Wilkerson hit a tiebreaking three-run homer in the ninth inning in Montreal's next-to-last game before moving to Washington.

Dodgers: Finley gives L.A. dramatic finish

DODGERS, FROM BACK PAGE

The stunning loss — keyed by three walks and a critical error — left the Giants in a precarious position.

Their division hopes dashed, Barry Bonds and Co. saw their playoff hopes disappear Sunday as Houston beat Colorado 5-3 to clinch the NL wild card. A Giants victory over the Dodgers combined with a Houston loss would have forced a one-game playoff Monday in San Francisco.

"We lost — we didn't win," said Marquis Grissom, who burned his former team for the second straight day, driving in all three San Francisco runs.

"We played a good game. We gave it up at the end," Grissom said. "It doesn't matter how we lost. We've got to come out and win tomorrow."

After it was over, pitcher Jose Lima took a victory lap around Dodger Stadium to the roar of the crowd. Perez dumped a bottle of champagne over Lima's head near the backstop.

Four days after rallying for five runs in the bottom of the ninth to beat Colorado 5-4, the Dodgers did it again — and then some.

Blanked on four hits by Brett Tomko and two relievers entering the ninth, the Dodgers loaded the bases with one out on a single by Shawn Green and two walks by Dustin Hermanson (6-9), who was pulled after walking pinch-hitter Hae-Seop Choi to force in the first Los Angeles run.

Jason Zimmerman relieved and got Cesar Izturis to hit a grounder to the left side, but

shortstop Cody Ransom, inserted into the game for defensive purposes, misplayed it for an error, allowing Robin Ventura to score.

Jayson Werth followed with a single off Matt Herges to tie it, capping an eight-pitch at-bat.

"I battled the whole at-bat, kept fouling off pitches," Werth said. "Then I got something I could drive, and I hit it the other way."

With the winning run in third and one out, Finley hit the 0-1 pitch from Wayne Franklin into the right-field seats, and the celebration began immediately.

Finley was mobbed at the plate and the party continued for several minutes as the sellout crowd of 54,994 went wild.

"Everything was appropriate about that," Werth said of Finley's heroics. "He's unbelievable. He's brought a lot to the table for us this year."

Yency Brazoban (6-2), the sixth Los Angeles pitcher, worked one inning to earn the win.

Hermanson was pitching for the fifth straight day, and questioned some of plate umpire Tim McClellan's calls.

"I feel a little overworked and tired, but I wanted to be out there," he said. "I made some good pitches he called balls. That kills you. I gave it everything I had today. This is crunch time. I want to be out there."

Tomko allowed four hits in 7 1/3 innings before being relieved by Scott Eyre, who retired Finley on a grounder to second. Hermanson came on to induce Adrian Beltré to ground to short, ending the inning.

Bowa-less Phils win finale

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Jimmy Rollins hit for the first time since the season's opening.

Bobby Abreu hit his 30th homer and Rollins had a grand slam to lead Philadelphia to a 10-4 victory over the Florida Marlins on Sunday, a day after manager Larry Bowa was fired for failing to get the Phillies into the playoffs.

"After the grand slam, I actually thought about him, wonder-

ing what he was doing," Rollins said. "I figured he's probably at home celebrating, probably with a smile."

The Phils' (86-76) matched last year's record and equaled their mark from 2001, Bowa's first season. Philadelphia hasn't won more than 86 games since the 1993 NL championship team won 97.

The Phillies made a winner of Gary Varsho, who managed the last two games and lost in his debut Saturday.

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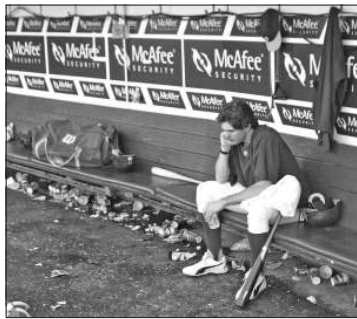
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Oakland Athletics pitcher Barry Zito sits on the bench after the Anaheim Angels beat Oakland 5-4 on Saturday to clinch their first division title in 18 years and eliminate the A's from postseason contention.

Angels: Injuries didn't discourage Anaheim

ANGELS, FROM BACK PAGE

times this year we weren't playing baseball to our capabilities, but in crunch time guys got the job done."

The Angels chased Oakland and Texas for much of the season, but never fell below .500 and played superbly on the road down the stretch. They won seven of eight to clinch the division.

Much of their lineup competed while banged up, and didn't let their narrow deficit in the division a week ago stand in the way of winning at the wire. Washburn, Garret Anderson, Darin Erstad, Troy Glaus, Adam Kennedy, Bengie Molina and Tim Lincecum all dealt with injuries throughout the year.

"I feels fantastic," closer Troy Percival said. "Now, we want to do one more thing — win a world championship. The guys here responded by playing their game the same way every day. That's something about having a veteran team. We just didn't panic."

Angels owner Arte Moreno raised the team's payroll to \$110 million this season to put the club in better playoff position — signing star slugger Vladimir Guerrero to a \$70 million, five-year contract in January. Guerrero batted .337 with 39 homers and 126 RBIs.

"When I bought the team, I wanted the fans to taste champagne and not settle for beer," Moreno said.

It would have been easy for the Angels to be distracted by more than just injuries.

Outfielder Jose Guillen was suspended Sept. 26 following his outburst after being removed for a pinch-runner the previous day.

Guillen and the Angels reached a financial settlement Friday to resolve a grievance filed afterward, agreeing that Guillen would not rejoin the Angels for the remainder of the season.

Everyone quickly moved past the commotion for the sake of their postseason hopes. They knew thinking about Guillen could derail their mission.

"The Jose Guillen thing is water under the bridge right now," manager Mike Scioscia said. "Jose is going to be better for it. We're going to be better for it." Bartolo Colon got things started with an outstanding outing Friday night. Because he dominated in seven sharp innings — while pitching on three days' rest for the third time in his career — the Angels saved top relievers Percival and Francisco Rodriguez to be available Saturday. And both were needed.

"They stayed together and played great baseball in the second half, especially this week," Scioscia said. "We had the toughest road of any club. We talked about it the whole season that this is a very competitive division, but nobody was ever going to be too far ahead or too far behind. We wanted to play well enough to make these games count."

Angels, who won seven of their previous eight and clinched the AL West on Saturday.

The A's tied the game in the seventh on a two-run double by Adam Melhuse that followed a Swisher's leadoff single and a double by Jermaine Dye.

Tim Hudson allowed two runs on four hits in seven innings, striking out six with no walks.

End of a long journey

Twins need 20 minutes to complete suspended game

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Ben Broussard hit a two-run homer to lift the Cleveland Indians to a 5-2 victory over the Minnesota Twins on a strange Sunday afternoon and send the AL Central champions to Yankee Stadium for the start of the playoffs.

Twenty minutes before the originally scheduled game began, the Twins beat the Indians 6-5 in 12 innings to finish

Saturday's suspended game more than 26 hours after it began. Michael Cuddyer's

two-out double scored Jason Bartlett from first base to end it.

Minnesota (92-70), which won its third straight division title, plays the AL East champion Yankees at New York on Tuesday in Game 1. The Anaheim Angels, the AL West champs, will host the wild-card Boston Red Sox in the other first-round series.

Kyle Lohse (9-13) won the first game with a scoreless 12th inning, then started the second game and lost, giving up five hits and three runs before leaving after the fourth inning with a blister.

Cliff Lee (14-8) pitched seven innings in the second game.

Bob Wickman got three outs for his 13th save in 14 chances.

David Risks (7-3) got the Cuddyer's hit in the first game.

The teams were tied 5-5 after 11 innings Saturday when play was suspended at 2:33 p.m. because the Metrodome field needed to be converted for a college football game between Penn State and Minnesota (5-4) won the game 16-7.

Orleans 3, Red Sox 2: Miguel Tejada drove in his major league-leading 150th run and the visiting Red Sox found out they'll be opening the playoffs in Anaheim.

Red Sox manager Terry Francona substituted liberally throughout the game in order to rest his regulars for the postseason. Starter Derek Lowe, who was used out of the bullpen in the first playoff series, gave up one run in two innings before being lifted.

Bruce Chen (2-1) pitched three innings of one-hit relief. B.J. Ryan got four outs for his third save.

Baltimore took a 3-2 lead in the fifth with an unearned run off Scott Williamson (0-1).

Johnny Damon's double in the fourth was Boston's 373rd of the season, matching a major league record.

Yankees 3, Blue Jays 2: Bernie Williams hit a tiebreaking homer off Josh Towers (9-9) in the eighth inning, and the visiting New York Yankees learned they will beat Minnesota on Tuesday in the opening round of the playoffs.

New York finished 101-61, joining Atlanta (1987-90), Boston (1969-71) and the Philadelphia Athletics (1929-31) as the only teams with three straight 100-victory seasons.



Minnesota's Michael Cuddyer is mobbed by teammates after his single in the 12th inning Sunday gave the Twins a 6-5 victory over Cleveland.

Yankees manager Joe Torre hinted he might keep 11 pitchers on his roster for the first round, including Kevin Brown and Orlando Hernandez. El Duque has been bothered by a tired arm in his last two starts.

That decision could mean Jason Giambi won't be included. He was 6-for-4 with two strikeouts Sunday — fanning with the bases loaded and two outs in the first — and is 4-for-3 (.121) since he was activated from the disabled list.

Scott Proctor (2-1) pitched the seventh inning for the win in relief of Brad Halsey, who allowed one run and five hits in five innings.

White Sox 5, Royals 0: Jose Contreras took a no-hit bid into the seventh inning and ended visiting Chicago's season with eight straight wins.

Kansas City set a team record for losses by going 58-104, breaking the mark set when the Royals went 62-100 in 2000.

Contreras (13-9) did not allow a hit until Ruben Gotay singled to right leading off the seventh, ending a streak of 16 straight batters retired. The right-hander allowed two hits in eight innings, struck out four and walked two.

Zack Greinke (8-11) allowed three runs and seven hits in five innings. He went 0-2 in his last four starts.

Kansas City was shut out 13 times, matching Tampa Bay for the most in the American League.

Devil Rays 7, Tigers 4: Tampa Bay set a franchise record with their 70th victory.

Detroit (72-90) bounced back with a relatively respectable season — improving by 29 victories — after losing an AL-record 119 games in 2003.

Matt Diaz hit a two-run triple in a four-run third inning. John Halama (7-6) gave up two runs on seven hits and no walks through five innings.

Nate Robertson (12-10) gave up six runs — five earned — on 10 hits while striking out six in five innings.

In Saturday's AL games:

Rangers 10, Mariners 4: Michael Young had a two-run homer and got three hits, spilling Edgar Martinez Day in Seattle.

The sellout crowd of 45,817 got a special treat when Martinez, Seattle's retiring designated hitter, started the ninth inning at third base, his first appearance at third since July 2, 1997. He stayed in for one pitch, to a standing ovation and scattered boos when Willie Bloomquist took the field.

Martinez didn't have a good day at the plate, going hitless with a walk in three at-bats.

Kenny Rogers (18-9) pitched into the sixth, allowing three runs on seven hits with four strikeouts and one walk.

Ichiro Suzuki boosted his major league-record hit total 260 with a fifth-inning single.

Red Sox 7-7, Orioles 5-5: Doug Mientkiewicz hit a tiebreaking two-run triple in the seventh as visiting Boston rallied from a 5-1 deficit to complete a doubleheader sweep.

In the opener, Bronson Arroyo threw three shutout innings in his final tuneup before the playoffs and Johnny Damon drove in three runs.

Baltimore's Javy Lopez and Boston's Orlando Cabrera hit three-run homers in the second game.

Royals 10, White Sox 2: Ruben Gotay drove in four runs with his first major league homer and a triple, helping Brian Anderson (6-12) and host Kansas City snap a seven-game losing streak.

Calvin Pickering and Angel Berroa also homered for Kansas City.

Anderson pitched his second complete game of the year, giving up seven hits. He struck out four and walked one.

Tigers 5, Devil Rays 1: Marcus Thames had his first two-homer game and drove in three runs for his first hit.

Craig Monroe also homered for Detroit, which set a major league record by having 11 players with at least 10 home runs.

Gary Knotts (7-6) allowed one run and four hits, walked two and struck out four in 7 1/3 innings.

A's beat Angels, but it's too late

The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Rookie Nick Swisher singled home the go-ahead run in the eighth inning and the Oakland Athletics defeated the playoff-bound Anaheim Angels 3-2 on Sunday.

Aaron Sele pitched into the seventh inning, and Jeff DeVanon hit an RBI triple for the

SPORTS



Auburn's demolition of Tennessee,
Georgia's dismantling of LSU
show who rules the SEC, Page 25



Perfect Hollywood endings

Dodgers rally for seven runs in ninth to seal NL West title

BY JOHN NADEL
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Dodgers have spent many recent Octobers watching postseason baseball on television.

This year, they'll be playing. Steve Finley's grand slam capped a seven-run rally in the bottom of the ninth inning, and Los Angeles won the NL West by beating the San Francisco Giants 7-3 on Saturday.

"We do it the Hollywood way — that's for sure," closer Eric Gagne said. "It's amazing."

The Dodgers qualified for the postseason for the first time since making it as the wild card in 1996. They won the division the year before.

Now, they'll look to win their first postseason game since upsetting Oakland in the 1988 World Series. The Dodgers will play at NL Central champion St. Louis, while NL East winner Atlanta faces Houston, the wild-card team.

"We never quit — we're winners,"

said Odalis Perez, who will pitch the playoff opener. "We know how to do it. We finish."

Finish, indeed. The comeback victory was the Dodgers' NL-leading 53rd of the season, setting a franchise record. The old mark was 52 by the 1983 Brooklyn Dodgers.

Thirteen of the team's last 14 wins have been comeback victories, and they've won 26 in the final at-bat.

The 39-year-old Finley, acquired by the Dodgers from last-place Arizona at the trade deadline, was only too happy to come to the plate in such a spot.

"For the last two weeks, I've been putting myself in that situation," said Finley, drenched in champagne in a raucous clubhouse.

"I was dreaming about it, and it happened," Finley said. "I wanted it. I knew I was going to get it done. When I walked to the plate, I knew the game was over. I even had a smile on my face, if I remember."

SEE DODGERS ON PAGE 29



PASADENA STAR-NEWS/AP

Los Angeles Dodgers' Steve Finley, center, is mobbed by teammates after hitting a grand slam in the ninth inning against San Francisco on Saturday. The Dodgers won 7-3 and clinched the NL West.



Anaheim Angels' Darin Erstad (17) scores the go-ahead run in the eighth inning of Saturday's 5-4 victory over Oakland to clinch the AL West title. At left is Athletics catcher Damian Miller.

Angels celebrate AL West title, aim for return to World Series

BY JANIE MCCAULEY
The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Sometime during the last several weeks, pitcher Jarrod Washburn began to sense a change in the mood surrounding the Anaheim Angels. Losing was no longer an option.

"It shifted back to where things were in '02," Washburn said.

Back in '02, the Angels won the World Series.

The Angels have another talented lineup heading into the playoffs, but this time they're going in as the division champions for the first time in 18 years. The team two years ago won the AL wild card.

The Angels will open the playoffs at home against Boston. The Minnesota Twins will begin the other American League Division Series on the road against the New York Yankees.

Winning the AL West — the club's fourth division crown and first since 1986 — happened more easily than most would have expected.

Anaheim beat Mark Mulder in Friday's 10-0 rout of the Oakland Athletics, then rallied against the A's shaky bullpen to win 5-4 Saturday after Barry Zito shut them down for seven innings.

It didn't even have to come down to the final day. The Angels made up a three-game deficit since Sept. 24.

"A few weeks back, we weren't mathematically eliminated, but if we were going to get in we were going to have to win the division," Washburn said. "The atmosphere in here did seem to change. It just tells you a lot about the character of the guys on this team that we never counted ourselves out and never gave up. At

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